

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

June 1-2, 1989

DON HINES

Chairman

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

AGENDA  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
June 1-2, 1989

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

June 1-2, 1989

Chairman Don Hines presiding:

Thursday, June 1, 1989

James Jenkins, Jr.  
Bert Jones  
Norman McCall  
Joe Palmisano  
Warren Pol  
Dale Vinet

Chairman Don Hines presiding:

Friday, June 2, 1989

James Jenkins, Jr.  
Bert Jones  
Norman McCall  
Joe Palmisano  
Warren Pol

Ms. Virginia Van Sickle was also present.

The minutes of the regular monthly meeting of May 4-5 1989 were unanimously approved at Thursday's meeting with a motion from Mr. Jenkins and seconded by Mr. Pol.

Mr. Jerry Jones of Cameron gave a complete and detailed report of the Alligator Task Force. He stated that the members of the Task Force properly represented the coastal marshlands of Louisiana.

Jonathan Glasscock presented a rule to ratify free fishing days. Mr. Jenkins moved to ratify the rule, seconded by Mr. McCall which was unanimously approved.

(The full text of the rule is made a  
part of the record)

In accordance with Act 301 of the 1987 Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has declared June 10 and 11, 1989 as Free Recreational Fishing Days in Louisiana to coincide with National Fishing Week June 5-11. On the two above mentioned free fishing days, residents and non-residents may exercise the privilege of a licensed recreational fisherman without purchase of any otherwise necessary recreational fishing license.

Danny Timmer presented the results at Thursday's meeting for the 1989 turkey hunting season and slide presentation. A drawing was held for three shotguns to be given away. The names were taken from a list of turkey hunters who reported their kill.

At Thursday's meeting Robert Helm gave a waterfowl outlook and slide presentation.

A resolution was also presented by Robert Helm for the Department to work with two other state agencies in developing a plan if another oil spill takes place on Catahoula Lake. At Friday's meeting Mr. Jenkins made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Jones which was unanimously approved.

(The full text of the resolution is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, Catahoula Lake is a significant migration and wintering site for ducks and geese of the Central and Mississippi Flyways with peak numbers exceeding 400,000, and

WHEREAS, the Lake is the most important wintering area for canvasbacks, a species of special concern, with up to one third of the continental population in January 1988, and

WHEREAS, the Lake provides habitat for greater than 100,000 mallards and 200,000 pintails, two additional species of special concern, during most years, and

WHEREAS, the Lake provides recreational opportunities for an estimated 8 to 10,000 waterfowl hunters annually, and

WHEREAS, a significant oil production field has been established on the Lake bed since the 1940's and

WHEREAS, there are currently 25 wells on the Lake and an estimated 35-40 miles of pipelines exposed on the Lake bed, and

WHEREAS, old pipe situated on the surface of the Lake bed is exposed to impact from vehicular traffic during the annual drawdown period that may result in pipe damage, and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 1989 an oil spill occurred as a result of a rupture of a transfer pipe installed on the surface of the Lake bed 26 years ago, and

WHEREAS, if a similar spill on the Lake occurred during the Fall and Winter extensive waterfowl losses could result, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shares water management authority with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Corps of Engineers and is responsible for the waterfowl management on Catahoula Lake, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality are responsible for regulating oil production activities and ensuring that these activities do not harm the environment within Louisiana, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby strongly urge the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality in conjunction with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take appropriate action to reduce the probability of inadvertent oil spills on Catahoula Lake in the future with consideration of the following:

- 1) update all oil production and transfer equipment
- 2) bury all pipelines at least three feet below the surface of the Lake bed
- 3) annual pressurized testings of lines to at least twice the normal flow pressure

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these three state agencies ensure that a oil production and transfer companies operating on the Lake develop state of the art contingency plans should an oil spill occur.

John Roussel presented a Notice of Intent for mackerel bag limits. On Friday, Mr. Jenkins made a motion to accept the Notice which was seconded by Mr. McCall and passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record)

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby expresses intent to adopt rules and regulations establishing a recreational bag limit of 10 fish per person per trip for spanish mackerel and a recreational bag limit for king mackerel of 2 fish per person per trip for private vessels and either 3 fish per person per trip for charter vessels, excluding captain and crew or 2 fish per person per trip including captain and crew, whichever is greater. Authority for adoption of this rule is included in R.S. 56:326.3.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule at the following address: John E. Roussel, Saltwater Finfish Section, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

At Thursday's meeting Mr. Rick Kasprzak, coordinator of the program for the Department stated that this program started when John Breaux enacted legislation for the National Fish Enhancement Act. The Act created the Artificial Reef Council. The Act mandated that a plan be written and updated. The goals of Phase 1 were to create fish habitat, provide recreational diving opportunities, gain technicological expertise in converting offshore oil and gas platforms into artificial reefs and to

become financially independent through the donations received by the oil and gas companies.

Mr. Kasprzak introduced Dr. Charles Wilson who presented a slide series on the inshore artificial reef program. Mr. Jenkins asked how far inshore in the inland waters do the Coast Guard regulations apply and where do they really have authority? Mr. Wilson stated that they have authority anywhere that water is navigable by law. Inshore they maintain navigation in all navigation fairways and the Mississippi River is the property of the Coast Guard in terms of navigation. By federal law they are responsible for buoying requirements in inshore waters. The Coast Guard is responsible for seeing that the owners maintain the buoys that they consider legal. Mitigation of shelledredgers was discussed. Location of shell pads was also discussed. Some locations will be changed.

The merger of Fur and Refuge and Game Divisions was presented by Mrs. Van Sickle. A summary was given to each Commission member. Bettsie Baker and Bob Misso stated that this would be the practical thing to do because of duplication of programs and programatic budgeting. Mr. Palmisano offered a resolution, seconded by Mr. McCall and the motion carried.

(The full text of the resolution is made  
a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recognizes the importance of professional wildlife management in dealing with our natural resources, and

WHEREAS, scientific study and management is becoming increasingly important to proper wetland protection conservation and enhancement, and

WHEREAS, Fur and Refuge Division has played a leadership role in wetland management, especially at Rockefeller Refuge, and

WHEREAS, any deletion of present function of the Fur and Refuge Division is discouraged in merging the Fur and Refuge Division with Game Division appears to lessen the research and management effectiveness of scientific study and implementation of findings, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission opposes the merger of the Fur and Refuge and Game Division and urges the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take appropriate action to insure each division remain a separate entity.

Mr. J. B. Jones discussed the Perkins alligator hatchling issue on Thursday before the Commission went into executive session.

At Friday's meeting the August meeting date was set for August 3-4, 1989 to be held at the Community Center in Grand Isle.

Mrs. Van Sickle stated that she would give a Secretary's report at every Commission meeting to keep the lines of communication opened between the Secretary and the Commission.

A request was made to have a report at the next meeting of the nutria eat-out and marsh damage that is being done by certain fur animals.

Since there was no other business or public comments to come before the Commission, Mr. Jenkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Pol which was unanimous.

Virginia Van Sickle  
Virginia Van Sickle

RESOLUTION

THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, JUNE 1, 1989.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recognizes the importance of professional wildlife management in dealing with our natural resources, and

WHEREAS, scientific study and management is becoming increasingly important to proper wetland protection conservation and enhancement, and

WHEREAS, Fur and Refuge Division has played a leadership role in wetland management, especially at Rockefeller Refuge, and

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission opposes the merger of the Fur and Refuge and Game Division and urges the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take appropriate action to insure each division remain a separate entity.

This is to certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of the excerpt of the meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on June 1, 1989.



Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

---

Donald Hines, Chairman  
La. Wildlife & Fisheries Commission



## **NOTICE OF INTENT**

### **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby expresses intent to adopt rules and regulations establishing a recreational bag limit of 10 fish per person per trip for spanish mackerel and a recreational bag limit for king mackerel of 2 fish per person per trip for private vessels and either 3 fish per person per trip for charter vessels, excluding captain and crew or 2 fish per person per trip including captain and crew, whichever is greater. Authority for adoption of this rule is included in R.S.56:326.3.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule at the following address: John E. Roussel, Saltwater Finfish Section, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000.

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8

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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
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## RULE

### Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations establishing recreational bag limits for spanish and king mackerel:

Title 76

Wildlife and Fisheries

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishing

S. Daily Take and Possession Limits Set by Commission

The recreational bag limit for spanish mackerel (Scomberomorus masculatus) shall be 10 fish per person per trip.

The recreational bag limit for king mackerel (Scomberomorus cavella) shall be 2 fish per person per trip for private vessels and 3 fish per person per trip for charter vessels, excluding captain and crew. For the purposes of this rule, charter vessels shall be defined as vessels permitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service to fish as a charter vessel under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
June 1, 1989

WHEREAS, Catahoula Lake is a significant migration and wintering site for ducks and geese of the Central and Mississippi Flyways with peak numbers exceeding 400,000, and

WHEREAS, the Lake is the most important wintering area for canvasbacks, a species of special concern, with up to one third of the continental population in January 1988, and

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WHEREAS, a significant oil production field has been established on the Lake bed since the 1940's, and

WHEREAS, there are currently 25 wells on the Lake and an estimated 35-40 miles of pipe lines exposed on the Lake bed, and

WHEREAS, old pipe situated on the surface of the Lake bed is exposed to impact from vehicular traffic during the annual drawdown period that may result in pipe damage, and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 1989 an oil spill occurred as a result of a rupture of a transfer pipe installed on the surface of the Lake bed 26 years ago, and

WHEREAS, if a similar spill on the Lake occurred during the Fall and Winter extensive waterfowl losses could result, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shares water management authority with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Corps of Engineers and is responsible for the waterfowl management on Catahoula Lake, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality are responsible for regulating oil production activities and ensuring that these activities do not harm the environment within Louisiana, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby strongly urge the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality in conjunction with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take appropriate action to reduce the probability of inadvertent oil spills on Catahoula Lake in the future with consideration of the following:

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these three state agencies ensure that oil production and transfer companies operating on the Lake develop state of the art contingency plans should an oil spill occur.



Don Hines, Chairman  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife  
and Fisheries



Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife  
and Fisheries

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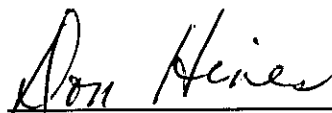
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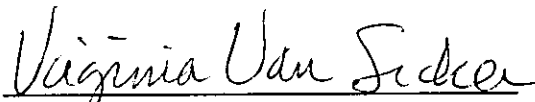
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Don Hines, Chairman  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife  
and Fisheries



Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife  
and Fisheries

AGENDA  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
June 1-2, 1989

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 4-5, 1989
3. Report of the Alligator Task Force - Jerry Jones
4. Ratify Free Fishing Days - June 10-11, 1989 - Paul Jackson
5. Results from 1989 Turkey Hunting Season and Related Management Activities-Danny Timmer
6. Drawing for Shotguns for Participants in the Voluntary Turkey Check - Danny Timmer
7. Waterfowl Outlook - Robert Helm
8. Notice of Intent - Mackerel Bag Limits - John Roussel
9. Inshore Artificial Reef Program Update - Charles Wilson
10. Merger of Fur and Refuge Division With Game Division - Virginia Van Sickle
11. Perkins Alligator Hatchling Issue (Executive Session)
12. Set August Meeting Date

OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

# State of Louisiana



## DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

POST OFFICE BOX 98000  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70898

BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

May 22, 1989

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission  
FROM: Virginia Van Sickle *VVS*  
RE: June Board Meeting

The next regular public board meeting as set by the Commission will be at 2:00 PM on Thursday, June 1, 1989, at the Quail Drive Office in Baton Rouge.

On Friday, June 2nd, the meeting will be continued at the same location at 10:00 AM.

1. Approval of Minutes of May 4-5, 1989

#### WADE BYRD

2. Ratify Free Fishing Days - June 10-11, 1989

#### BOB MISSE

3. Results from 1989 Turkey Hunting Season and Related Management Activities-Danny Timmer
4. Drawing for Shotguns for Participants in the Voluntary Turkey Check
5. Waterfowl Outlook
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Page 2  
Memo to Commission Members  
May 22, 1989

JERRY CLARK

8. Notice of Intent - Mackerel Bag Limits

WINTON VIDRINE

9. Law Enforcement Report

OTHER BUSINESS

Set August Meeting Date

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VVS/pc

cc: Bob Misso  
Don Puckett  
Kell McInnis  
Bettsie Baker  
John Medica  
Division Chiefs

# State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

POST OFFICE BOX 98000  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70898

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

May 22, 1989

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Kell McInnis  
Bettsie Baker  
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Division Chiefs

# State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

POST OFFICE BOX 88000

BATON ROUGE, LA 70898

May 11, 1989

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

*Paula*  
*I do not have*  
*anything for the*  
*agenda.*  
*Pittsue*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretaries and Undersecretary  
FROM: Virginia Van Sickle *VVS*  
RE: Commission Meeting Agenda - June 1-2, 1989

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to me by Monday, May 22nd any agenda items your Office may have for the meeting in Baton Rouge at 2000 Quail Drive, Thursday and Friday, June 1-2, 1989. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo to me and indicate this on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation!

VVS/pc

cc: Don Puckett

*Note that you are responsible*  
*for getting items from your Division Chiefs!*

# State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

POST OFFICE BOX 98000  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70898

May 11, 1989

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretaries and Undersecretary

FROM: Virginia Van Sickle *VVS*

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Thank you for your cooperation!

VVS/pc

cc: Don Puckett

*Note that you are responsible  
for getting items from your Division Chiefs!*

**JONES, JONES & ALEXANDER**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

POST OFFICE DRAWER M

CAMERON, LOUISIANA 70631

*Miss  
Londrum  
Commissioner's*

J. B. JONES, JR.  
JERRY G. JONES  
GLENN W. ALEXANDER  
JENNIFER JONES BERCIER  
SALLIE JONES SANDERS

NORTH SIDE OF COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
TELEPHONE (318) 775-5714  
(318) 775-5715

May 9, 1989

Ms. Virginia Van Sickle  
Secretary, Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries  
P. O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, A 70898

Dear Ms. Van Sickle:

In accordance with our discussion at the Wildlife and Fisheries' meeting in New Orleans on May 5, 1989, I am enclosing herewith:

1. A Xerox copy of my letter with attachments to Mr. Robert Misso dated February 8, 1989.
2. A Xerox copy of my letter to you dated March 22, 1989.

Apparently you never received my letter of March 22, 1989, as you indicated the only communication you had from me was a telephone call about the meeting.

We are anxious to get this matter resolved and I certainly hope that we can be on the next meeting of the commission or before that.

Mr. Perkins and I have never sat down and talked to you about our position and we would like the opportunity to do that. Please let me know if you can see us before the meeting.

I am also enclosing herewith a copy of a letter that Mr. Joanen wrote to Mr. Perkins dated January 25, 1989, which backs up our statement to the effect that the department has never complied with its side of the bargain.

If you have any questions concerning this material, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

JONES, JONES & ALEXANDER

  
J. B. JONES, JR.

JBJJr:dm  
Enclosures

89 MAY 15 PM 2:02  
LA. WILDLIFE & FIS. COM.  
RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**JONES, JONES & ALEXANDER**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

POST OFFICE DRAWER M

CAMERON, LOUISIANA 70631

J. B. JONES, JR.  
JERRY G. JONES  
GLENN W. ALEXANDER  
JENNIFER JONES BERCIER  
SALLIE JONES SANDERS

NORTH SIDE OF COURTHOUSE SQUARE

TELEPHONE (318) 775-5714

(318) 775-5715

March 22, 1989

Ms. Virginia Van Sickle  
Secretary, Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries  
P. O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Dear Ms. Van Sickle:

Reference is made to my letter of February 8, 1989, to Mr. Robert Misso, Assistant Secretary, a copy of which is attached.

We have received no reply to this request.

Since the contract that Mr. Perkins originally had was with the Commission itself, we would like to be put on the agenda at the next meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in the month of April so that we might present this matter to the Commission itself. We believe these contracts represent a policy set forth by previous Wildlife and Fisheries Commissions.

Before taking any legal action against the Commission or the State, we would like to meet with the members of the Commission at their next meeting. Would you please put Mr. Perkins and I on the agenda for a discussion of our request to Mr. Misso dated February 8, 1989.

Sincerely yours,

JONES, JONES & ALEXANDER

J. B. JONES, JR.

JBJJr:dm

cc: Norman McCall

**JONES. JONES & ALEXANDER**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

POST OFFICE DRAWER M

CAMERON, LOUISIANA 70631

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JERRY O. JONES

GLENN W. ALEXANDER

JENNIFER JONES BERCIER

SALLIE JONES SANDERS

NORTH SIDE OF COURTHOUSE SQUARE

TELEPHONE (318) 775-5714

(318) 775-5715

February 8, 1989

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Robert Misso  
Assistant Secretary  
Louisiana Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries  
P. O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Dear Mr. Misso:

At the meeting with you February 3, 1989, involving Mr. Robert E. Perkins and the undersigned as his attorney, you suggested that we put our formal demand for hatchling alligators in writing. The basis for this demand is as follows:

Reference is made to that certain resolution adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Friday, January 27, 1978, a copy of the resolution being attached hereto. Reference is further made to the contract between Robert E. Perkins and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries executed in February 1978, a copy of this contract also being attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Records of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Mr. Perkins reveal that between the years 1977 and 1986, the Department furnished to Mr. Perkins a total of 10,007 gators. Under the terms of the above contract and the letter of Mr. J. Burton Angelle dated December 20, 1985 (a copy of this letter is attached), it is clear that the Department was obligated to furnish Mr. Perkins a total of 20,200 alligators, leaving a balance due of 10,193 alligator hatchlings.

On behalf of Mr. Perkins, we now call on the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries of the State of Louisiana for specific performance under this contract. Mr. Perkins has honored every requirement imposed upon him by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as to his side of the contract.



Mr. Robert Misso  
February 6, 1989  
Page 2

As we explained to you at our recent meeting, each year that there was a shortage Mr. Perkins called such to the attention of your personnel at the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge where the program was being conducted and was informed that the gators would be "made up to him later." We don't know the exact reason why your department did not choose to supply alligator hatchlings in the quantities and at the times expressed in the contract. his

Please accept this letter as a demand that you furnish Mr. Perkins 10,193 alligator hatchlings in the 1989 season.

Mr. Perkins is ready, willing and able to accept this large number of hatchlings. If this is your course of action, we ask that you please let us know as soon as possible because Mr. Perkins will be required to make some preparation and it will be necessary that you give him a permit to sell the alligator hatchlings outside the State of Louisiana.

We recognize furnishing this large number of hatchlings for 1989 will certainly have an adverse effect on the total alligator program. Mr. Perkins, who was the original alligator farmer and had the first contract, doesn't want to do this. This letter is his expression to you that he would be willing to work out some sort of arrangement with you to furnish the shortage of 10,193 alligator hatchlings over a period of years.

We ask that you or the Commission act upon this request within thirty (30) days (which we consider reasonable time) because Mr. Perkins has to act within that time to protect his legal rights.

Sincerely yours,

JONES, JONES & ALEXANDER

J. B. JONES, JR.

JBJJr:dm

Enclosures

# State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

POST OFFICE BOX 88000  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70898

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

December 6, 1988

Mr. Robert E. Perkins  
Sauros International  
Route 3, Box 301  
Welsh, Louisiana 70592

Dear Mr. Perkins:

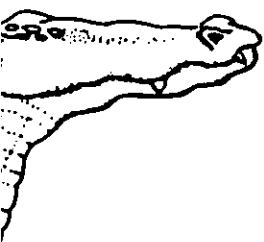
Thank you for your letter of November 21, 1988, concerning future purchase of alligator hatchlings. We do not know, at this time, how our hatchling program will be handled in the future. Just as soon as we establish relevant procedures you will be notified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Misso".

Bob Misso, Assistant Secretary  
Office of Wildlife

BM:sb



## *Sauros International - Fine Alligator Products*

Louisiana Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries  
Post Office Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

Attention: Mr. Robert Misso,  
Assistant Secretary

November 21, 1988

Dear Bob,

Our alligator supplement contract with your department expired this past September. Over the ten years of the contract we have established a breeding herd of 115 animals grown from our stock per our agreement with the department. When we started the breeding herd your biologists estimated that this number would be sufficient to supply our marketing needs.

In terms of eggs laid we are on target, However, as most farm breeders have found, the hatch rate leaves us quite short in relation to the investment we have made in our plant.

Therefore we are requesting that we be allowed to buy 1,000 hatchlings from your department for the next five years. Meanwhile we can lay aside stock for additional breeders which can be producing in five years. The price of these hatchlings will hopefully be in line with your suggested sales arrangement described in your letter of July 14, 1988.

As it is vital that we secure stock well ahead, please let us have your decision as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

Robert E. Perkins

REP/cdp

*Route 3, Box 301, Welsh, Louisiana 70591 - Telephone (318) 734-3319*

ROCKEFELLER REFUGE ALLIGATOR SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM

Farm	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Robert Kliebert	450	300	300	300	250	312	300	300	300				
Robert Perkins		450	500	905	1,050	1,000	1,050	1,054	900	1,000	1,055	1,043	10,007
Waltaker-Keller (Cocodrie)		1900	1700	200	1,700	3,400	3,400	3,400	500	1,500	1,500	1,500	20,200
Leele McAndrews			290		250	375	400	500	500	1,500	1,500	1,500	10,113
David Barron						772	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500			
Donald Coats						150	150	250	250	300			
George Bartmess							500	500	450	700			
Robert M. Farrington							565	500	525	600			
L. & E.							500	400	500	600			
Stan Stansbury								500	500	500			
Big Smith								150	250	500			
Kline								130	250	300			
Sagrera								250	200	472			
								255	644				

AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROBERT E. PERKINS AND  
THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Mr. Perkins will construct and maintain facilities in an "exempt Parish" for the incubation and rearing of alligators. Specifically; the alligators will be housed in indoor ferro cement pens consisting of 50% dry and 50% water areas. The facility will have a chemically acceptable water supply. Insulation, ventilation and heating equipment capable of maintaining a year round temperature of at least 23 C. will be incorporated in the facility. Animals will be stocked at the rates approved by the Departments' experimental group at the Rockefeller Refuge:

Hatchlings to 1 year	-	.12 sq. m. per animal
1 year to 2 years	-	.34 sq. m. per animal
2 years to 3 years	-	.46 sq. m. per animal

Sanitary procedures conforming to those at the Refuge project will be maintained. That is, pens will be flushed free of uneaten food and animal wastes three hours after feeding.

Animals will be fed a diet of whole ground fish or other animal protein and a multi-vitamin supplement amounting to approximately 20% of body weight. Feeding will take place for five (5) straight days each week except where gout symptoms are detected.

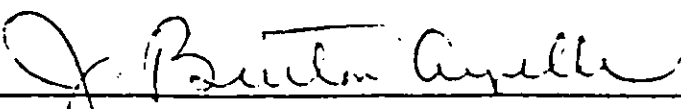
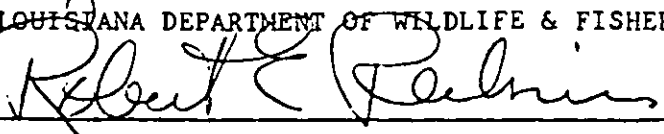
Animals will be constantly segregated according to size.

Each year 5 % of hatchlings will be returned to The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at the age of 12 months.

In the first generation two hundred (200) females and fifty (50) males will be raised to maturity as future breeding stock and a suitable outdoor habitat provided at age three (3).

Recognizing the monetary and personal investment The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will guarantee priority for delivery to Mr. Perkins, nineteen hundred (1,900) eggs in 1978, seventeen hundred (1,700) eggs in 1979, 1980, 1981 and thirty-four hundred (3,400) eggs in 1982, 1983 and 1984, plus the number of eggs the Department wishes returned as hatchlings.

Mr. Perkins will be guaranteed the right to market legal sized hides each year whether or not a State controlled hunt of wild alligators is held.

	<u>2/15/78</u>
THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES	DATE
	<u>2/24/78</u>
ROBERT E. PERKINS	DATE

ALLIGATOR FARMING AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROBERT PERKINS AND THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations governing Louisiana alligator farms and guidelines establishing Department priorities for farm extension type activities by Department personnel were adopted by Commission Board Action on January 27, 1978; incorporating regulations and procedure outlined in alligator farm proposal dated February 23, 1977.

The following basic regulations govern stocking and operation of alligator farms---especially when alligator stocks are provided by the state. The program is experimental and the provision of stock by the State is limited to five years per farm.

1. Must meet Department approval as required under Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. The most important factors that applicants will be judged by include land availability and suitability and the applicants operational plans.
2. Controlled environmental chambers, capable of maintaining a minimum constant temperature of 75 to 80° F, ample water, ample basking area, and adequate space, must be included in operational plans to house animals up to 4 feet in length. Use of chambers would practically guarantee that the state receives its share of animals in a reasonable length of time and also be most advantageous to the farmer. A reliable source of high quality alligator food and adequate freezer facilities are basic farm requirements.
3. Cooperators are obliged to return to the state live alligators of a minimum size of 3 feet; representing 5% of the number of fertile eggs or young taken. The return of 5% back into the wild or to the state will adequately represent natural recruitment.
4. Grow-out and breeding pen facilities are important attributes of a self-sustaining captive alligator program. Pen facilities must be incorporated into the farming operation and must meet recommendations of the Department.
5. Program applicable only to farms established within the state.
6. Record keeping must comply with existing Commission/Department regulations.
7. Periodic inspections will be conducted by Department personnel.
8. Applications for eggs must be submitted through the Fur and Refuge Division Chief's office in Baton Rouge.
9. The Department may revoke the license of farmers violating Commission/Department regulations.
10. All other rules and regulations pertaining to the breeding, propagation and sale of alligators shall be determined solely by the Commission/Department.
11. The actual number of eggs/young provided each farm will depend upon annual availability of young/eggs and also could be influenced by the total number requested by various farms (i.e., if requests exceed availability; stock will be prorated on an equitable basis).

Cognizant of Department regulations, I hereby acknowledge acceptance of 1000 hatchlings for the year 1982, and to further abide by all state/federal/international regulations pertaining to alligator farming and commerce.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alligator Farmer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Dec. 1977 -

met w/ Angelle & Commissioner  
Finalized in below

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1978.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is in favor of encouraging the development of new resource oriented industries in the state, and

WHEREAS, biological data collected by Department technicians has established techniques by which American Alligators can be propagated in captivity, and


WHEREAS, the Department has surplus alligators located on refuges located in the portion of the state where alligators are delisted, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robert Perkins, of North Carolina has made an official request to the Department for assistance in establishing a farm and has agreed to return to the Department 5% of the young alligators hatched from eggs provided by the Department.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary to enter into an agreement with Mr. Perkins to provide alligator eggs to establish an alligator farm.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department can exercise the option of receiving 5% of the hatchlings on an annual basis or waiving this option if the Department technicians determine that there is not a use for these hatchlings for restocking or establishment of additional alligator farms.

This is to certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct excerpt from the minutes of the meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Friday, January 27, 1978.

  
J. Burton Angelle  
Secretary

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

ROCKEFELLER WILDLIFE REFUGE  
ROUTE 1, BOX 20 B  
GRAND CHENIER, LOUISIANA 70643



January 25, 1989


Mr. Robert E. Perkins  
Route 3, Box 301  
Welsh, Louisiana 70591

Dear Bob:

This is to confirm our conversation regarding shortages in alligator hatchlings delivered to your farm since 1978. When we were initially unable to deliver the number of hatchlings agreed to by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in your contract, we assured you that we would make up the difference at the earliest opportunity.

The overall alligator supplement program expanded faster than anticipated and resulted in shortages in every year of your contract. We were aware of the shortages and at this point, I am unable to tell you when we will be able to provide you the number of alligators that are called for in contract. This decision will have to be made by our Baton Rouge office.

Sincerely yours,

  
Ted Joanen, Research Leader  
Fur and Refuge Division

TJ:mah





J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.  
SECRETARY  
(504) 925-3617

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
POST OFFICE BOX 15370  
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70895

EDWIN W. EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR

December 20, 1985

Mr. Robert E. Perkins  
Route 1, Box 666  
Bell City, Louisiana 70630

Dear Mr. Perkins,

First, let me extend to you my sincerest sympathies on your recent tragedy. I have followed the development of your farm since 1977 and fully realize how much time and effort you and your wife, Sissy, have dedicated to your alligator operation.

In order that you may reconstruct your farm at the level prior to the fire and after discussions with members of my staff, I agree to supply you with 1,000 hatchling alligators per year from the supplement program at Rockefeller Refuge for the years 1986, 1987, 1988. This should assist you in your rebuilding effort and help augment the losses incurred by the fire.

I understand you plan to relocate and construct a complete new facility. I certainly feel this is a wise choice and wishing you every success, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "J. Burton Angelle".

J. Burton Angelle,  
Secretary

JBA/plh  
cc: Ted Joanen, Rockefeller Refuge

*Jerry*

# State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

POST OFFICE BOX 88000  
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898

BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

May 11, 1989

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretaries and Undersecretary

FROM: Virginia Van Sickle *VVS*

RE: Commission Meeting Agenda - June 1-2, 1989

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to me by Monday, May 22nd any agenda items your Office may have for the meeting in Baton Rouge at 2000 Quail Drive, Thursday and Friday, June 1-2, 1989. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo to me and indicate this on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation!

VVS/pc

cc: Don Puckett

1) Mackerel bag limits, John Russell

*Note that you are responsible  
for getting items from your Division Chiefs!*

*2.) INSHOW ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM UPDATE 5-23-89 you*

# State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

POST OFFICE BOX 98000  
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898

BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

May 22, 1989

## COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA - OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

### Game:

- Results from 1989 Turkey Hunting Season and related management activities - Danny Timmer
- Drawing for shotguns for participants in the Voluntary Turkey Check. In Program.
- Waterfowl Outlook

### Fur and Refuge:

- Perkins Alligator Hatching Issue.

### Ecological Section:

None

### Natural Heritage Section:

None

# State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

POST OFFICE BOX 98000  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70898

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VVS/pc

cc: Don Puckett

Fur + Refuge

Note that you are responsible  
for getting items from your Division Chiefs!

1- Perkins Alligator Hatchery Issues  
~~2- Report of the Alligator Task Force~~  
2- Report of the Alligator Task Force 5-23-89  
johnnie

# State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

POST OFFICE BOX 88000  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70898

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VVS/pc

cc: Don Puckett

Game

*Note that you are responsible for getting items from your Division Chiefs!*

*and related management activities*

- Results From 1989 Turkey Hunting Season - Danny Timmer
- Drawing For Shotgun For Participants in the Voluntary Turkey Check-in Program
- Waterfowl Outlook

# State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

POST OFFICE BOX 98000

BATON ROUGE, LA 70898

May 11, 1989

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

## MEMORANDUM

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Thank you for your cooperation!

VVS/pc

cc: Don Puckett

Natural Heritage

*Note that you are responsible  
for getting items from your Division Chiefs!*

*None - Gary Lester*

# State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

POST OFFICE BOX 98000  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70898

May 11, 1989

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SECRETARY

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GOVERNOR

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Thank you for your cooperation!

VVS/pc

cc: Don Puckett

*Note that you are responsible  
for getting items from your Division Chiefs!*

*Ecological Section does not have anything  
to add to agenda -*

# DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES



*Virginia Van Pickle*

~~SECRETARY~~ SECRETARY

Merge of Fur and Refuge and  
Game Divisions ~~(M. H. H. H.)~~



AGENDA  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
~~NEW ORLEANS~~, LOUISIANA  
June 1-2, 1989

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 4-5, 1989
3. Ratify Free Fishing Days - June 10-11, 1989 - Wade Byrd
4. Results from 1989 Turkey Hunting Season and Related Management Activities-Danny Timmer
5. Drawing for Shotguns for Participants in the Voluntary Turkey Check - Danny Timmer
6. Waterfowl Outlook - Robert Helm
7. Perkins Alligator Hatchling Issue (Executive Session)
8. Merger of Fur and Refuge Division With Game Division - Bob Misso
9. Notice of Intent - Mackerel Bag Limits - John Roussel
10. Law Enforcement Report - Winton Vidrine
11. Set August Meeting Date

OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

## AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will be at 2:00 PM on Thursday, June 1, 1989 at 2000 Quail Drive in Baton Rouge. On Friday, June 2nd, the Commission will resume its regular meeting at 10:00 AM.

The following items will be on the agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 4-5, 1989
3. Ratify Free Fishing Days - June 10-11, 1989
4. Results from 1989 Turkey Hunting Season and Related Management Activities
5. Drawing for Shotguns for Participants in the Voluntary Turkey Check
6. Waterfowl Outlook
7. Perkins Alligator Hatchling Issue
8. Merger of Fur and Refuge Division With Game Division
9. Report of the Alligator Task Force
10. Notice of Intent - Mackerel Bag Limits
11. Inshore Artificial Reef Program Update
12. Law Enforcement Report
13. Set August Meeting Date

OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS



*Coastal Fisheries Institute  
Center for Wetland Resources*

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE  
BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803-7503 504/388-6455

May 26, 1989

Ms. Virginia Van Sickle  
Secretary  
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries  
P. O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Dear Virginia:

We recently held a LARI meeting to present the preliminary findings of exclusion mapping for Phase II of Louisiana Artificial Reef Program. During the meeting, we also reviewed the philosophies and intent of our Program which were laid out in 1987 to assure that the State's and the Department's best interests are maintained.

Exclusion mapping of inshore Louisiana was carried out in the same fashion as exclusion mapping for Phase I. Through our investigation and analysis of the inshore data it became apparent that there are over 6,000 existing structures, wrecks, hazards in state waters of Louisiana that serve as ad hoc artificial reefs. In addition, there are numerous unidentified, unmarked, unplotted structures which also have served as ad hoc artificial reefs. Due to the overwhelming abundance of materials in Louisiana, it has been our philosophy that the program should proceed cautiously. Much of this material already impacts existing fisheries in the state and as we saw in development of the offshore program, and the threat of haphazard placement of additional materials justifiably alarms some user groups.

We heard an excellent presentation from the leaders of the Mississippi Artificial Reef Program (Mr. Ron Luckens and John Cirino). To date, the Mississippi Banks Fishing Club has been responsible for establishing two artificial reefs involving liberty ships, two artificial reefs involving tires, and one artificial reef involving a barge and railroad cars. Their conclusions were that tires in general are disastrous and should be avoided. The liberty ships were perceived to be successful, however high wave action from several hurricanes caused one ship to break in half and move some three hundred feet. Fortunately, the ship stayed within the permitted artificial reef area. Both representatives felt that their program suffered because they had no plan, little structure and poor organization. Most of the materials placed in their sites were placed with reactive planning, by different entities which they said leads to problems. You and I were well aware of the potential for problems when we first heard about their program,

and I think that our insistence that we maintain a structured well-planned program in Louisiana has prevented that from happening in Louisiana. Although it has slowed to our progress to some extent, we do have a successful program.

The issue of shells was discussed in great detail. As a result, there are several points that we must consider before developing shell artificial reefs or enhancing existing shell pads. The first is that LADWF, in the mid-1970's, constructed three artificial reefs using Rangia shell in Lake Pontchartrain. It is the opinion of the members of the Department involved in that project and the diving community that the shell pads never provided an increase in fishing opportunity. Reasons for this were the high sediment loads in Lake Pontchartrain and the high subsidence rate due to the flocculent mud in the area where the shells were placed. Although Ron Luckens reported that shells can be useful and may provide increased fishing opportunities, they must be replaced on a regular basis. Only when the shells are placed in an area where oysters settlement can occur, does shell produce a healthy, productive habitat; if the oysters can be prevented from being harvested. For these reasons, we are very reluctant to support the use of shells in Lake Pontchartrain and other areas of the state without first developing a better understanding of their suitability as material for reef construction.

Therefore, I would like to propose that we implement some experimental shell artificial reefs in Lake Pontchartrain, Vermilion Bay, and off of Grand Isle, and monitor the effectiveness of these artificial reefs. The hypothesis for the experiment is that shell pads are productive and would be a useful materials to use in Louisiana's Artificial Reef Program. Please refer to the attached project outline which Rick and I have sketched out.

I have several concerns about moving too quickly with inshore reef construction. When you and I set out to establish this program, we assured the commercial fishing industry that we would attempt to mark all artificial reefs created at the expense of the state, particularly when the reef impacted that group. We also assured user groups that we would not construct artificial reefs without providing the public with an opportunity to provide input into specific site selection. I feel that if we construct artificial reefs under the auspices of our program without first going out on statewide public notice; otherwise we have violated the trust of that sector. Furthermore, we have over 200,000 saltwater fishermen in the state that would likely have opinions about exactly where artificial reefs should be constructed. This group needs input, particularly if we are going to prioritize reef construction due to funding limitations. Only with the cooperation with both the recreational and commercial sector can we be sure of maintaining a stable well thought of program.

V. Van Sickle  
5/26/89  
Page 3

Economics is also an overriding concern. Even if we build low profile reefs which do not require Aids to Navigation, should they still be marked? We need to set a precedent. Marking is critical to keep trawls off the reefs and to allow fishermen to find them. Buoys cost money and last year we spent \$12,000 replacing 3 offshore buoys. Fortunately, we have the money, but activities of the inshore program must be planned based on maintenance costs. Those costs will be for buoys and materials placement. Our primary financial goal right now is to get the program self-supporting. Extending ourselves inshore will lengthen the time required to get to a self sufficient point. In a few years we should be in great shape.

Rick and I would like to meet, at your convenience, with you, Jerry Clark, and John Roussel to discuss implementation of the inshore program and our proposed evaluation of shell pads as artificial reefs. It is critical that our efforts be consistent with your desires. We are scheduled to present an update of our program at the next Commission meeting.

The public is very pleased with the Artificial Reef Program and understand it as a long-term investment for the State. I do not think that we can afford to become reactive and expedite the process of creating artificial reefs in a few areas and risk the integrity that we have developed. In addition, the GSMFC is now in the process of forming an artificial reef subcommittee which would address and coordinate artificial reef issues among the Gulf states. The idea is to prevent haphazard reef construction and the use of ineffectual reef materials.

I look forward to discussing this with you in the near future.

Kindest regards,



Charles Wilson  
Associate Professor  
Fisheries Science  
and Development

CW/cf

cc: Dr. Jerry Clark  
Mr. John Roussel

ATTACHMENT

Proposed Evaluation of Shell  
as Artificial Reef Material  
in Lake Pontchartrain, Vermilion Bay,  
and off of Grand Isle, Louisiana

The purpose of this project is to evaluate the use of Rangia clam shell as artificial reef material in Louisiana waters. Rangia shell is a readily-available natural resource that is harvested commercially in the state as a substrate material. It is available to LADWF as mitigation through lease agreement.

Rangia shell is considered to be a viable source of material under consideration by the Louisiana Artificial Reef Program. However, three shell pads were placed in Lake Pontchartrain by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in the mid-1970's. Although there are no data available, these artificial reefs were generally considered a failure because of the lack of productivity, in part due to the high sediment load in the lake. The state is presently considering using shell as a source of artificial reef material during Phase II of its Artificial Reef Program and before we embark on use of this material in a widespread manner, its effectiveness and cost-benefit must be evaluated.

Shells have been used as artificial reef material off of Mississippi at the end of fishing piers with some degree of success, although this success has never been documented. Mississippi reef

advocates attribute this success to the fact that these artificial reefs are located in areas where natural settlement of oysters continues to renew the reef substrate and effectiveness of the artificial reef. They reported that shells placed in areas where there is not natural settlement of oysters require continual maintenance.

#### Site Selection -

The proposed shell artificial reefs will be sited in waters of Louisiana in such a way that they minimize impact on commercial and recreational fishermen, and other marine interests and maximize our opportunity for evaluation. Site selection could be separate from the public hearing process to select general reef sites with the help of input from private citizens in the overall master plan for Phase II. However, the test reef sites should be selected in cooperation with local fishing groups to assure that impact is minimal. At the present time we are planning to establish a total of five test sites in the state.

#### Lake Pontchartrain -

Two sites will be located in Lake Pontchartrain and selected with the assistance of fishing interests in the Lake Pontchartrain area. One of these sites could be at the end of the public pier at the Lakefront, to evaluate the benefit to non-boating fishermen.

Vermilion Bay -

Two shell pads are to be established in the Vermilion Bay area with the assistance of a local fishing group that has already expressed interest in participating in such a project.

One shell pad will be placed at the end of the Grand Isle fishing pier at the State Park at Grand Isle if the site can be secured.

We will attempt to provide a before and after evaluation of each site, although it may not be possible to accomplish this at every site. It would be helpful to monitor catch rates in these areas before establishment of an artificial reef and then monitor the effectiveness of the artificial reef by monitoring catch rates after the establishment of the shell pad. Evaluation will also be conducted by divers who would go down and visually examine each of these sites. The results of this experiment would be used by the Louisiana Artificial Reef Program in consideration of developing other shell pads in the state.

It is anticipated that this project will run for one year following placement of the shell material and the shell material will likely be placed during the month of August, 1989.



### REPORTED SPRING TURKEY HARVEST (VOLUNTARY)

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>
ALLEN	7	1		
ASCENSION	0	1		
ASSUMPTION	0	0		
BEAUREGARD	18	13		
BIENVILLE	25	21		
BOSSIER	0	2		
CADDO	0	0		
CALCASIEU	6	7		
CALDWELL	8	8		
CATAHOULA	0	0		
CLAIBORNE	9	7		
CONCORDIA	0	0		
DESOTO	0	0		
E. BATON ROUGE	26	29		
E. CARROLL	40	42		
E. FELICIANA	165	122		
FRANKLIN	8	1		
GRANT	28	32		
IBERVILLE	32	66		
JACKSON	8	9		
JEFF DAVIS	0	0		
LASALLE	6	4		
LINCOLN	0	2		
LIVINGSTON	42	188		
MADISON	28	35		
NATCHITOCHES	35	17		
OUACHITA	6	4		
POINT COUPEE	27	29		
RAPIDES	101	88		
RED RIVER	1	1		
RICHLAND	1	0		
SABINE	5	2		
ST. HELENA	228	167		
ST. LANDRY	26	32		
ST. MARTIN	8	2		
ST. TAMMANY	42	62		
TANGIPAHOA	94	102		
TENSAS	21	74		
VERNON	110	103		
WASHINGTON	120	128		
WEBSTER	0	0		
W. BATON ROUGE	89	86		
W. FELICIANA	140	209		
WINN	4	4		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1514</b>	<b>1700</b>		

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES - OFFICE OF WILDLIFE 16-8513

PROGRAM/COST CENTER RECAP:

	<u>Cost Center Number</u>
PROGRAM: ADMINISTRATIVE	22010
PROGRAM: WILDLIFE LANDS & POPULATION MGMT.	
<u>Activities</u>	
Administrative	22050
Rockefeller Refuge	22070
Marsh Island Refuge	22080
State Wildlife Refuge	22060
Other Refuges and WMA's	22910
Fur Mgmt./Research	22071
Alligator Mgmt./Research	22912
Deer Mgmt./Research	22914
Migratory Bird Mgmt./Research	22916
Turkey Mgmt./Research	22918
Upland Game	22095
Duck Stamp Program	22030
PROGRAM: HABITAT CONSERVATION	
<u>Activities</u>	
Administrative	22601
Ecological Studies	22603
Natural Heritage/Non-Game	22605
Scenic Rivers	22607
Habitat Acquisition & Assessment	22609
Marsh Mgmt./Coastal Erosion	22611

AGENCY	LEGAL CITATION
PROGRAM	Constitution of the State of Louisiana, Article IX, Section 7, Wildlife and Fisheries, Chapter 13 of Title 36 of Louisiana Statutes of 1950 (Acts 1976-No. 513; Acts 1977-No. 83, Acts 1984-No. 179.

## OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program is needed to preserve, maintain, and develop land where feasible to increase Louisiana's wildlife resources and wildlife habitat areas because of the vital role these assets play in the State's economy, the environment, and the outdoor recreational opportunities for the general public. Those who benefit directly from the program include approximately 1 million sport fishermen, 13,810 freshwater commercial fishermen, 12,000 trappers, and 500,000 sport hunters. That segment of the business community dealing in outdoor merchandising needs, transportation, lodging, food, commercial fur or fish, profit financially from the State's wildlife resources. The non consumptive users benefit from field trips to the wildlife management areas and refuges for sightseeing purposes. Other advantages accrue to those who learn from conservation education and information activities. Firearm, hunter safety, and boat safety courses serve to reduce losses of lives and property.

A sound, constructive, well financed, continuing management program is essential to the existence of Louisiana's wildlife resources. During the late 1800's and early 1900's important segments of this natural resource dwindled away to near zero levels; however, through the application of sound management procedures during recent decades many of the more important resources such as deer and turkey have been restored to near capacity levels in many parts of the state. Additionally, research and management techniques have been developed to allow for the utilization of the State's wildlife resources on a sustained yield basis.

The program is needed to preserve fish and wildlife habitat absolutely essential to the maintenance of wildlife populations. Suitable habitat is the basic element in wildlife production and must be preserved in quantity and quality if wildlife is to survive in variety and abundance.

This program is designed to provide technical or management assistance relating to habitat for fish and wildlife to all landowners in the state including both federal and private. One of the important goals of this program is to maintain a productive staff of technically trained employees who will be competent to manage the activities associated with a sound fish and wildlife program in Louisiana. Further, to maintain an adequate staff of experienced field employees to operate and manage the many wildlife management areas, refuges and other activities associated with this program. Presently, the program is being funded through the Conservation Fund, the Marsh Island Fund, the Rockefeller Fund, federal monies.

Program Administration includes the activities of the Assistant Secretary, i.e. policy development for the department.

AGENCY	LEGAL CITATION
PROGRAM	Constitution of the State of Louisiana, Article IX, Section 7, Wildlife and Fisheries, Chapter 13 of Title 36
OUTLINE	of Louisiana Statutes of 1950 (Acts 1975 No. 720; 1976 No. 513; and Acts 1977 No. 83).

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## WILDLIFE LANDS AND POPULATION MANAGEMENT

### Program Description

This program is responsible for performing the functions of the state relating to all aspects of research and management of the state's wildlife resources throughout Louisiana. The program is responsible for managing and maintaining 1,122,014 acres of wildlife management area lands and 177,775 acres of refuge properties (See Appendix A).

#### Subprogram: Administration

The primary purpose of this subprogram is stated in RS 56:609 which describe the following responsibilities:

Be responsible for performing the functions of the state relating to the administration and operation of programs, including research, relating to wild birds, game, certain wildlife management areas and game preserves, including law enforcement thereon, and river basin evaluations, including but not limited to providing recommendations for the fixing of seasons, bag and possession limits, the establishment of rules and regulations for the taking and protection of wild birds and game and protected quadrupeds and the regulations of persons who breed, propagate, sell, kill, or transport wild birds and wildlife.

Perform the functions of the state relative to the maintenance and operation of certain wildlife management areas, refuges, and sanctuaries, including law enforcement thereon, and relative to the administration and operation of programs, including research on all forms of marsh life, including but not limited to the licensing of and payment of taxes by trappers, alligator hunters, commercial buyers, and dealers.

#### Subprogram Objectives

Administer and formulate laws, rules and regulations relating to wild game birds, game fur-bearing animals, alligators, waterfowl and other forms of wildlife found throughout the State of Louisiana.

Administer all phases of the statewide wildlife management area and refuge program within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Administer the mineral management and right-of-way program on Department owned properties.

Administer all phases of the Department's game, fur-bearer, waterfowl, wild game bird, alligator and marsh management research programs.

Administer the wildlife management area and refuge maintenance and development program which also includes maintaining Department owned facilities throughout the state.

#### Performance Indicators

All aspects of game, waterfowl, alligator and fur-bearer administrative activities result in a tremendous economic impact to the State of Louisiana. Man days of recreational use exceed 1,000,000 on the 39 wildlife management areas and an additional 200,000 on the large coastal refuges. The importance of wildlife management areas and refuges in furnishing a place for the public to enjoy the out-of-doors is rapidly increasing as more private holdings are being leased to private clubs.

The administration of the minerals program provides a significant portion of the Department's annual revenue base from oil and gas produced primarily from Pass-a-Loutre WMA, Rockefeller Refuge and Marsh Island Refuge. These lands generate in excess of \$8,000,000 annually.

The administration of the fur management program directly relates to the annual harvest of approximately 1,500,000 pelts valued on the state level at approximately \$7,200,000. The alligator management program results in approximately 25,000 wild alligators harvested annually with a direct benefit to the landowners and hunters of \$10,000,000.

Subprogram: Rockefeller Refuge Land Stewardship

The 1920 Deed of Donation and subsequent memoranda of agreements with the United States Department of Interior require the State of Louisiana to manage, maintain, and enhance this 84,000 acre wildlife refuge.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has conducted intensive development programs on the refuge; constructing marsh impoundment, weirs, and other water control structures. These various installations were constructed with waterfowl management as the primary interest but are beneficial to all wildlife and fish species.

The impoundments now completed, range in size from 480 to 5,680 acres and provide a means of controlling water levels on approximately 26,000 acres of marsh on the refuge. Numerous low level weirs have been constructed since the initiation of this program and provide water management on an additional 12,200 acres of marsh. Such work has resulted in a continual production of desirable wildlife food plants necessary to attract and maintain sizable populations of waterfowl on the refuge.

Habitat improvement, e.g., de-watering areas in the impounded fresher marshes during the growing season to produce annual grasses and stabilizing water levels in the brackish marsh for the production of aquatics, has proven to be a sound management practice. Aerial inventories conducted by refuge biologists list the duck population on the refuge at approximately 250,000 in mid-winter. Of the total number ducks, approximately 80% use the impoundments and the remaining 20% are scattered throughout the refuge in ponds, lakes, and flooded marshes. Prior to the construction of these impoundments, Rockefeller Refuge wintered less than 50,000 ducks.

Wise utilization and management of our coastal marshlands and estuaries should receive paramount consideration if the citizens of Louisiana are to receive the benefits they deserve. Commercial and sport interests, which result in millions of dollars being generated annually in the state, are heavily dependent upon the productivity of our coastal marshlands. For the most part, research as applied to the practical aspects of marsh management have been conducted in only a few isolated areas. Louisiana's 5,000,000 acres of coastal marshlands contribute monetarily far more to Louisiana than any other portion of the state; the area deserves more research and sound factual information.

In excess of 150 publications concerning projects conducted by refuge biologists have been published in various technical journals with national and international distributions. Through these publications and other methods, department biologists are attempting to reach the citizens of the state to relay the message of conservation and wise utilization of Louisiana's natural resources.

Marsh development through research conducted by refuge biologists demonstrates what can be done to improve nature for the benefit of wildlife. The marshes serve as wintering grounds for waterfowl, nursery grounds for fishes and habitat for fur-bearing animals. The refuge also serves as a stop-over site for millions of migrant birds on their annual trip to and from the tropics. All management, development and research programs should be continued until the entire potential of the refuge is reached. Tens of thousands of persons, including naturalists, biologists and sport fishermen visit Rockefeller each year. Lectures are given to thousands of students each year concerning the various phases of marsh management and wildlife research conducted at the refuge. Many talks are

presented to civic groups to encourage public support of our continued efforts to preserve and manage our coastal wildlife resources for maximum benefit to all of the state's citizens.

#### Subprogram Objectives

To properly protect, manage and enhance this coastal refuge as described in the Deed of Donation and the Memorandum of Agreement between the United States Department of Interior and the State of Louisiana signed February 12, 1988.

To continue the marsh management research studies which have gained international recognition and have earned Rockefeller the designation of being the most intensively managed coastal marshlands in North America.

To conduct management orientated research and apply the results of long range technical studies to management programs. These activities provide intensive research, protection consultation and supervisory services not only on the refuge but to private landowners to assist them in the wise utilization and management of their fish, wildlife and fur resources.

#### Subprogram: Marsh Island Refuge Land Stewardship

The 1920 Deed of Donation and subsequent memoranda of agreement require the State of Louisiana to manage, maintain and enhance the 79,000 acre coastal refuge.

The marshlands of the Island contributes a tremendous amount of shrimp, crabs and finfishes to the overall estuary system of Vermilion Bay as well as the near offshore waters of the west Louisiana coast. Management programs at the Refuge have stabilized water conditions in approximately 40,000 acres of the area which serve as excellent nursery grounds for juvenile shrimp. Two 4,000 acre impoundments have been constructed and a total of 35 low level dams are functioning.

Prior to the intensive development program on Marsh Island, the area was carrying approximately 30,000 ducks and 100,000 Blue and Snow Geese. At the present time this number has increased to approximately 100,000 ducks and about the same number of geese. Local residents are utilized in the trapping program and only 10 percent of their fur catch is required by the State thus contributing substantially to the economic well being of this hard-working segment of our state's population.

Management programs at the Island have increased the economic value of the shrimp industry as well as to provide an increased waterfowl hunting success in the marshes which surround Vermilion Bay. The Island also serves an important role in providing migratory species of song birds with resting habitat in their annual migrations through Louisiana. The area provides thousands of people with recreational opportunities and serves as an excellent example of wise marsh management which can be utilized by private land owners to improve their properties.

Prior to the development of the refuge, marshes were typically tide water with excessive drainage of lakes and potholes. This resulted in a very unstable water condition on the island which largely prohibited the growth of widgeon grass and other desirable aquatics in the potholes. In addition, it prompted the production of undesirable marsh plants, such as black rush that typify well drained brackish marshes along the Louisiana coast.

The management work at Marsh Island stands out as a good example of what man can do to improve on nature for the benefit of wildlife. The development work completed thus far has resulted in increased usage by ducks and geese on the refuge. Alligators are found in large quantity throughout the refuge. As a nursery ground for shrimp, Marsh Island is probably unsurpassed in this section of the state. Literally millions of small shrimp drift into the waterways of the island in the spring and mature and move out in the late summer and fall to be harvested by commercial fishermen in Vermilion Bay and the Gulf. Blue Crabs and many other forms of marine fishes are found in abundance throughout the waters

of the refuge. In spite of the aquatic condition of Marsh Island, large numbers of deer have been present at various times in recent years. In addition, countless thousands of shorebirds and wading birds utilize the area, all of these combine to create a teeming wildlife colony.

#### Subprogram Objectives

To properly protect, manage and enhance this coastal refuge as described in the memorandum of agreement between the Russell Sage Foundation and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries signed April, 1987. Management work on the area has consisted of installation of low level water control structures and one large impoundment to improve environmental conditions to encourage the production of aquatic and emergent plants used by waterfowl and fur bearing animals. Technical personnel of the Refuge conduct field research work on Marsh Island and their findings serve as a basis for development and maintenance programs.

To continue marsh management research studies continue developing the techniques needed to manage Louisiana's coastal marshes and provide technical assistance whenever requested to private landowners as to how marshlands can best be managed to wildlife and fisheries.

#### Subprogram: State Wildlife Refuge

The 1911 Deed of Donation requires the State of Louisiana to manage, maintain and enhance this 15,000 acre wildlife refuge primarily for waterfowl.

State Wildlife Refuge, located on the western shore of Vermilion Bay comprises 15,000 acres of prime waterfowl habitat which is extensively managed to provide food and resting areas for all species of waterfowl. This refuge is used extensively by Blue and Snow Geese and will overwinter in excess of 200,000 birds. A vigorous marsh burning program is utilized as one management tool to attract these birds to the refuge.

State Wildlife Refuge personnel also administer an extensive trapping program to control the nutria and muskrat populations. If these populations are not controlled with trapping, severe vegetative eat outs occur which severely damage the marsh and require many years to recover.

Management programs at State Wildlife have increased the economic value of the shrimp industry as well as to provide an increased waterfowl hunting success in the marshes which surround Vermilion Bay. The refuge also serves as an important role in providing migratory species of song birds with resting habitat in their annual migrations through Louisiana. The area provides thousands of people with recreational opportunities and serves as an excellent example of wise marsh management which can be utilized by private land owners to improve their properties.

Prior to the development of the refuge, marshes were typically tide water with excessive drainage of lakes and potholes. This resulted in a very unstable water condition on the refuge which largely prohibited the growth of widgeon grass and other desirable aquatics in the potholes. In addition, it prompted the production of undesirable marsh plants, such as black rush that typify well drained brackish marshes along the Louisiana coast.

The management work at State Wildlife stands out as a good example of what man can do to improve on nature for the benefit of wildlife. The development work completed thus far has resulted in increased usage by ducks and geese on the refuge. Alligators are found in large quantity throughout the refuge. Literally millions of small shrimp drift into the waterways of the refuge in the spring and mature and move out in the late summer and fall to be harvested by commercial fishermen in Vermilion Bay and the Gulf. Blue Crabs and many other forms of marine fishes are found in abundance throughout the waters of the refuge. In addition, countless thousands of shorebirds and wading birds utilize area, all of these combine to create a teeming wildlife colony.

### Subprogram Objectives

To properly protect and manage this coastal refuge as described in the Deed of Donation between Mr. E. A. McIlhenny and the state of Louisiana signed November, 1920.

To continue marsh management research studies to continue developing the techniques needed to manage Louisiana's coastal marshes and provide technical assistance whenever requested to private landowners as to how marshlands can best be managed for wildlife and fisheries.

### Subprogram: Land Stewardship of Other Refuges and Wildlife Management Areas

This subprogram provides for the management, maintenance and development of the 39 wildlife management areas and two refuges which total more than 1,000,000 acres of varied wildlife habitat. Hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, camping, shrimping, crabbing, hiking and bird watching are activities which prevail on these areas. Twenty three (23) of the WMA areas are state owned, sixteen (16) are leased from private companies or government entities. One refuge is state owned and the other is leased from private ownership.

Due to the management programs conducted on these wildlife management areas and refuges, surrounding woodlands and marshlands are also benefited by surplus wildlife species feeding and inhabiting privately owned land and being able to find sanctuary on the wildlife management areas and refuges when needed.

The wildlife management areas and refuges exhibit some of the most utilized woodlands and marshlands in the State of Louisiana. Many individuals use the areas for hunting and fishing who would otherwise be unable to participate in outdoor recreation due to the high cost of leasing private owned lands. The Department's management program is directed toward the proper edaphic conditions to encourage production of food plants and conditions conducive to wildlife and as a result the areas provide top quality hunting and fishing to tens of thousands of Louisiana residents and visitors, not only for hunting and fishing but sight-seeing, photography and bird watching.

The estimated yearly number of recreational trips and associated harvests made on wildlife management areas are as follows:

Deer & Turkey Hunts	195,000
Squirrel & Rabbit Hunts	110,000
Waterfowl Hunts	150,000
Other Hunts/Activities*	615,000
<u>TOTAL TRIPS</u>	<u>1,070,000</u>

\*Includes woodcock, rail, snipe, dove, quail, shrimping, fishing, crabbing, crawfishing, trapping, boating, swimming, and bird watching.

Total Estimated Wildlife Harvest:	
Deer	5,500
Squirrel	105,000
Waterfowl	75,000
Turkey	350

The harvest of fish, shrimp, crabs, crawfish and other species has not been compiled for all of the areas but is very impressive because of the numbers of people who continuously utilize these areas as part or all of their outdoor activities.

### Subprogram Objectives

To continue to provide maximum outdoor opportunities on 39 wildlife management areas and two refuges. Work activities associated with attaining this objective includes maintaining and posting the boundaries, upkeep of fenced areas, planting and disking wildlife food plots, maintaining 1500 miles of roads and hundreds of miles of canals and



levees, protection of property and wildlife resources and continuation of timber management on state owned areas which will aid and improve the areas for existing wildlife resources.

To utilize the marsh management techniques developed at Rockefeller and Marsh Island on the coastal wildlife management areas which will result in an increase in the availability of all forms of marsh wildlife. Research programs and inventories are annually conducted on these areas and the findings from these studies applies to properly manage the areas and utilization of the wildlife resources.

Subprogram: Statewide Fur Management and Research

The Fur Research and Management Section is responsible for proper management of the state's valuable fur resources. Additionally the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is legally required (Title 56, Part V No. 263) to "... conduct scientific research into the life habits of the nongame quadrupeds through technically trained officers and employees...". This scientific research is necessary to manage statewide fur animal populations and to recommend proper habitat management practices to landowners. Approximately 12,000 trappers harvest in excess of 1 million pelts annually. Important furbearing species include nutria, muskrat, racoon, mink, otter, fox and bobcat.

Constant monitoring of coastal muskrat and nutria population is required to prevent over-population of these rodents in the marsh habitats of coastal Louisiana. These prolific rodents typically become so abundant that they destroy the marsh vegetation that is vital to their existence. Subsequently, extreme die-offs occur. This marsh damage, due to overutilization by muskrat and nutria, may result in long term marsh degradation which would ultimately reduce overall marsh production (shrimp, finfish, menhaden, crabs, etc.). Lack of adequate harvest due to poor pelts prices contributes to overabundance of these rodents, therefore the Department recognizes the need to develop prospective markets for these furs.

State, national and international anti-trapping and animal rights activists post an imminent threat to the future of the state fur industry. Legislative action to ban the leghold trap or the sale of furs harvested in leghold traps is introduced annually at the national level. The Department is responsible for monitoring and alerting the Louisiana Congressional Delegation of the serious consequences of such legislation. The Department is also instrumental in evaluation of more humane trapping systems.

Overpopulations of upland furbearer (raccoons, skunk, and fox) may result in outbreaks of rabies and distemper that could affect domestic animals and human populations. Therefore, the Department must monitor the abundance and harvest of these species.

For as long as records have been maintained, Louisiana has led the nation in the production of wild fur pelts. During the past 10 years, the state has produced 1.6 million pelts annually. The average value of this harvest is \$9 million with the peak economic value totaling \$25 million during 1976-77 trapping season. This harvest of Louisiana's renewable natural resource provides supplemental income to 10,000 trappers and their families. This harvest can continue as long as wildlife habitat is maintained in the state and fur markets are present.

Research on furbearer biology and population dynamics, marsh vegetation, marsh management, fur harvest distribution, trap evaluation and population indices have resulted in over 30 research papers being published in various scientific journals since 1976. Departmental staff personnel have presented research reports at many national and international conferences in recent years and the Departmental's fur management program is respected nationally.

Several nontechnical publications are available at the Department office that provide interesting information on the state's furbearing species. These brochures also provide explanations of marsh management techniques and the role that trapping plays in furbearer management. Lectures are given periodically, outlining the importance of Louisiana fur industry, to

various school and civic groups.

The future of the Louisiana fur industry depends on habitat maintenance and future fur markets. Habitat maintenance is critical in coastal Louisiana due to land loss resulting from subsidence and liaison. Landowners are given technical assistance in making decisions relative to furbearer and coastal habitat management. Adequate harvest of nutria and muskrat populations is necessary to prevent marsh damage. These coastal habitats provide millions of dollars of revenue to the state. The vast seafood industry is directly dependent upon maintenance of coastal wetland habitat.

#### Subprogram Objectives

Monitor statewide furbearer populations and establish and regulate the annual fur harvest season.

Conduct scientific research on various aspects of life history and population dynamics of furbearers in order to gain knowledge required for proper management of these species.

Conduct scientific research on influence of marsh management techniques to determine the affect on vegetation, animal abundance and long term marsh maintenance.

Monitor fur harvest distribution and timing by parish, region and habitat type in order to document changes in harvest that may reflect actual changes in furbearer populations.

Conduct annual field surveys in order to index furbearer populations.

Evaluate new trapping systems and determine efficiency and extent of limb injury in comparison to currently used trapping systems.

Provide educational information regarding the role that trapping plays in scientific wildlife management.

Investigate fur marketing systems and potential for important furbearing species.

Provide management information and assistance to landowners attempting to develop and maintain the furbearer resources on their properties.

Provide required information to CITES to maintain the Department's authority to manage resident river otter and bobcat populations.

Departmental personnel act as a liaison between Louisiana, and other state and Canadian biologists to enhance a cooperative effort by all North American fur managers to maintain the fur industry as it currently exist.

#### Subprogram: Statewide Alligator Management and Research

The alligator program provides technical research into all phases of alligator biology to produce results which are utilized to properly manage the state of Louisiana's wild alligator population. Results from other research projects are incorporated into the rapidly expanding farming and ranching programs which also benefit the coastal landowners.

#### Subprogram Objectives

To produce the information necessary (through active research) to manage alligator populations statewide to provide the maximum sustained harvest level possible. Such management will provide an opportunity for an alligator season in the state where harvestable amounts exist utilizing a tag allotment system.

To develop the methodology to investigate the life history of the Louisiana alligator which will enable the Department to develop highly refined management techniques for the species.

To actively research all aspects involved with alligator farming and ranching to develop the management techniques needed to enhance this fledgling industry.

To coordinate and cooperate with other researchers throughout the world who are actively engaged in crocodilian research and utilize all produced information to better manage this important wildlife species.

Research findings from studies conducted on Rockefeller Refuge contribute immensely to the alligator harvest in Cameron Parish in 1972, in Cameron and Vermilion Parishes in 1973, and Cameron, Vermilion and Calcasieu Parishes in 1975, 1976 and 1977. During the 1975 season, federal restrictions prohibited export out of the United States and resulted in a lower price-per-foot value for the skins. For 10 years Louisiana's alligator research and management programs have been progressing. In fact, alligator populations have increased from an estimated low of 50,000 individuals in the early 1960's to in excess of 500,000 in 1987. Constant monitoring of population trends and biological data and analysis have resulted in the American alligator being removed from the list of endangered species throughout Louisiana. The season in 1987 was viewed as highly successful in removing excess alligators as data indicate that approximately 23,250 were harvested in 30 day period by 1334 hunters with an estimated skin value of \$6,580,000. Skins were sold primarily to foreign markets in France, Japan and Italy. Along with the sale of skins, alligator meat is processed and channeled into the restaurant trade as well as for home consumption. Over 500,000 pounds of alligator meat (deboned) were sold for human consumption during the 1987 season with a value exceeding \$2,250,000. The recent 1988 statewide alligator season preliminary results indicate a harvest in excess of 23,526 which is valued at \$7,900,000 and 670,000 pounds of meat valued at \$3,000,000.

The supplemental alligator farming program at Rockefeller Refuge has 15 participants who receive hatchlings on an annual basis until they have established their own breeding stock. The program was initiated in 1977 and has been very successful in providing the spark to establish a new industry in the State of Louisiana.

The farming concept was expanding in 1987 because of the tremendous interest in the new industry and because Rockefeller Refuge was limited in the resources needed to establish the increasing numbers of applicants. Research conducted at Rockefeller has demonstrated that calculated numbers of alligator eggs can be harvested from alligator habitat, incubated and a certain percentage of the hatchlings can be returned at a four foot length with no detrimental effect on the wild population. With the establishment of this new program, the farms increased to 54 and presently house approximately 84,000 alligators.

During 1987, in excess of 12,000 four foot alligators were harvested with a resulting value of the meat and skins of \$2,085,000. Projections for 1988 indicate that in excess of 30,000 farm raised alligators will be harvested with a value of \$5,212,500.

#### Subprogram: Statewide Deer Management and Research

This subprogram is designed to manage the deer resources of the state on a sound sustained yield basis which benefits deer hunters of the state. This is accomplished by gathering biological research data from deer harvest and range information which is used to establish deer seasons and bag limits that remove surplus animals but provides for an annual recruitment that replaces harvest losses. The subprogram additionally allows a method of reducing deer herds that are above carrying capacity through the Intensive Deer Management Program.

#### Subprogram Objectives

Continue the present program allowing hunters to harvest the maximum number of deer in the state but also providing for the continued welfare of the resource.

One hundred eighty thousand big game licenses were sold during 1987/88 in the state of Louisiana. These deer hunters utilizing guns killed an estimated 100,000 deer and made approximately 2,800,000 hunting trips in pursuit of this species. Additionally, 20,000 archery licenses were sold during this time period and these bow hunters harvested and estimated 8,000 deer.

Eight hundred and thirty three (833) cooperators participated in the Intensive Deer Management Program during 1987/88 which encompassed 1,782,000 acres of habitat. Fifteen thousand (15,000) tags were issued to participants in the IDMP to harvest surplus deer. Three thousand (3,000) of the surplus animals were actually harvested.

#### Subprogram: Statewide Migratory Bird Management and Research

This subprogram is established to manage for waterfowl hunters, the state waterfowl population (ducks, geese, coots) that is attracted to the state's waterfowl habitat. Annual seasons and bag limits for waterfowl are established after biological data is collected from hunter bag checks and aerial inventories are made which monitor the arrival, departure, and number of birds which migrate to the state. Additionally the state is entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service which authorizes the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to assist the Fish and Wildlife Service in its efforts to manage conservation easements assigned by the U. S. Farmers Home Administration to the Service for administration as part of the national wildlife refuge system for wetlands.

#### Subprogram Objectives

Continue the present program allowing waterfowl hunters to harvest the resource on a basis that insures the continued welfare of the resource. Through better information and education it is hoped that hunters will zealously protect their waterfowl hunting heritage by abiding by the established rules and regulations. Positive action is also recommended for waterfowl enthusiasts to support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, of which Louisiana is a participant, which focuses on the value of managing enough high quality habitat to insure the abundance of all North American waterfowl. Identify those conservation easement areas under the FHA program which the Service needs assistance and bring as many as these areas as possible into the program which will enhance waterfowl populations.

Duck hunters in the state total approximately 125,000. These hunters kill annually an estimated two million ducks, 128,000 geese and 484,000 coots.

#### Subprogram: Statewide Turkey Management and Research

This program provides for the management of the state turkey flocks by allowing hunters a spring gobbler season. A restocking program is also in progress to establish huntable flocks of birds in all suitable habitat in the state. Restocked flocks are monitored to determine when flock sizes have grown enough to allow hunting.

#### Subprogram Objectives

To continue with restocking to establish flocks of birds where habitat is suitable. In 1988, 265 turkeys were stocked in the state. The goal for 1989 is 300 birds.

It is calculated that 16,000 turkey hunters killed an estimated 6,000 birds during the spring season of 1988.

#### Subprogram: Upland Game Management and Research Program

This program collects research information to manage doves, quail, rabbits, woodcock. Additionally the state has been stocking pheasants in west Louisiana in an effort to establish another game species for state hunters. Released pheasants are monitored continually to determine the success of the program. Hunting seasons will be granted only after flocks of pheasants are well established and it has been determined can withstand

the pressures of hunting. The program also provides advice and methods through the Acres for Wildlife Program to farmers who are interested in implementing farming methods and development practices which will benefit upland species.

#### Subprogram Objectives

Continue with gathering research that will aid in managing upland species. Assist all farmers who are interested in developing improvements on the farms which will benefit upland species. Trap and transplant pheasants in the state from flocks that have been established from past releases.

Two hundred thirty six thousand (236,000) squirrel hunters kill an estimated 3 1/2 million squirrels annually.

One hundred forty seven thousand (147,000) rabbit hunters kill an estimated 1,600,000 rabbits annually.

One hundred ten thousand (110,000) dove hunters kill an estimated 2,000,000 doves annually.

Thirty four thousand (34,000) woodcock hunters kill an estimated 300,000 woodcocks annually

Twenty three (23,000) quail hunters kill an estimated 336,000 quail annually.

Four hundred (400) stocked pheasants came from California, 250 from Texas, and 47 from Iowa.

#### Subprogram: Duck Stamp Program

Through a mandate from the 1988 legislature, the duck stamp program was initiated as a method of raising dedicated revenues to aid in restoring and maintaining waterfowl habitat in Louisiana only. Forty-five artists have participated in submitting prints to be judged. The winner has been selected and the process of publishing prints and stamps will be contracted.

#### Subprogram Objectives

Continue annually with the selection of a new duck stamp to produce royalties to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

It is estimated that \$1,000,000 will be generated for Department use during the 1989-90 season. Ensuing years will generate an estimated \$500,000 annually.

# APPENDIX A

<u>WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND REFUGES</u>		<u>ACREAGE</u>
Alexander State Forest-Office of Forestry		7,875
Atchafalaya Delta-Office of State Lands		135,000
Attakapas-Wildlife and Fisheries		25,500
Ben's Creek-Cavenham Forest Ind., Inc.		13,856
Big Lake-Wildlife and Fisheries		19,221
Biloxi-Biloxi Marsh Corporation		39,583
Bodcau-U.S. Army Corps of Engineers		32,471
Boeuf-Wildlife and Fisheries		38,443
Bohemia-Orleans Parish Levee Board		33,000
Boise-Vernon-Boise Southern Lumber		54,269
Coulee Refuge-Barham Heirs		700
Fort Polk-U.S. Army & U.S. Forest Service		109,855
Georgia Pacific-Georgia Pacific Corporation		27,361
Grassy Lake-Wildlife and Fisheries		11,942
Jackson-Bienville Williamette & Continental Can		30,845
Joyce-Wildlife and Fisheries (12,750), Guste Heirs (1,950), Joyce Foundation (850)		15,550
Loggy Bayou-Wildlife and Fisheries		3,541
Manchac-Wildlife and Fisheries		8,325
Marsh Island-Wildlife and Fisheries		79,000
Ouachita-Wildlife and Fisheries		8,747
Pass-a-Loutre-Wildlife and Fisheries		66,000
Pearl River-Wildlife and Fisheries (34,896), Nature Conservancy (5,406)		40,302
Peason Ridge-U.S. Army		33,488
Pointe-au-Chien-Wildlife and Fisheries		28,244
Pomme de Terre-Wildlife and Fisheries		5,544
Red River-Wildlife and Fisheries (16,604), Corps of Engineers (11,717)		28,231
Rockefeller Refuge-Wildlife and Fisheries		84,000
Russell Sage-Wildlife and Fisheries		17,140
Sabine Boise-Southern, Int. Paper, Continental Can		14,780
Sabine Island-State Lands		8,103
Saline-Wildlife and Fisheries		60,276
Salvador-Wildlife and Fisheries		30,600
Sandy Hollow-Wildlife and Fisheries		3,397
Sherburne-Wildlife and Fisheries		11,780
Atchafalaya NWR-U.S. Fish and Wildlife		15,255
Sicily Island Hills-Wildlife and Fisheries		6,569
Soda Lake-Caddo Parish Levee Board		1,300
Spring Bayou-Wildlife and Fisheries		12,166
St. Tammany Refuge-Wildlife and Fisheries		1,075
State Wildlife Refuge-Wildlife and Fisheries		13,000
Thistlewaite-Thistlewaite Heirs		11,100
Three Rivers-Wildlife and Fisheries		23,062
Union-Manville Forest Products (11,463), Dept. of Corrections (934)		12,937
West Bay-5 Timber Companies (Boise, Cascade, Kirby, and others)		55,185
Wisner-Wisner Foundation		21,621
<u>WMA AND REFUGE SYSTEM OWNERSHIP</u>		
Wildlife & Fisheries Owned	621,822	
State & Local Government Owned	186,212	
Federal Government Owned	202,786	
Privately Owned	288,969	
TOTAL	1,299,789	ACRES
WMA SYSTEM	1,222,014	ACRES
REFUGE SYSTEM	177,775	ACRES

AGENCY	LEGAL CITATION
PROGRAM	Article, IX, Section VII of the Constitution of Louisiana, Chapter 13 or Title 36, sub-parts of Title 56, and Chapters, parts, or sections of Titles 9, 30, 36, 41, and 49 pertaining to wildlife and fisheries, as provided for by the 1974 constitution the Revised Statutes of 1950, and Legislative acts through the 1988 session of the Legislature.
OUTLINE	

## Habitat Conservation Division

### Program Descriptions

This program dates back to the Federal Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1946; it has expanded over the years because of conflicts between development interests, natural resource user groups, and other environmental interests. The activities under this program have developed into some of the more important and demanding operations within this Office as a result of the passage of the Environmental Protection Act of 1969, the Scenic Rivers Act 368 of 1970 as amended; the Federal Land State Coastal Zone Acts, the National Environmental Policy Act, The Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Threatened and Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1974 as amended and the Louisiana Natural Heritage Preservation Act of 1987. The vast responsibilities are developing in this program because of State and Federal laws to protect the extremely valuable wetlands, nursery grounds and other natural habitats which generate a multitude of natural, renewable resources.

The Environmental Section was created in May 1971 from the River Basins Section. An expansion in the responsibilities of the Section resulted in the creation of the Ecological Studies Section and its relocation to the Office of Coastal and Marine Resources in 1981. In 1988 the Ecological Studies Section was incorporated into the Habitat Conservation Division in the Office of Wildlife.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program was transferred from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in 1986 and became part of the Refuge Division. In 1988 it was incorporated into the Habitat Conservation Division in the Office of Wildlife.

The Non-Game program was created in the Game Division in 1987 to administer a program to utilize the funds from the tax write-off authorized in 1981 by Act 784. The tax write-off authorization was repealed in 1988. The Non-Game program was incorporated into the Habitat Conservation Division of the Office of Wildlife in 1988.

### Subprogram 1: Administration:

This subprogram provides administrative management for the Division, including planning, organizing, and controlling. All administrative documents, including requisitions, purchase orders, time sheets, vehicle maintenance logs, etc. are reviewed and approved before submission to the office of management and finance. All activities of the program are reviewed to insure conformity with statutory law, administrative policy, and legislative intent. Research, development, and monitoring activities are reviewed to insure adherence to the best technical and scientific standards.

The division is required to interact with other entities as it strives to meet its goal. These include Federal, state and local agencies, industry groups, conservation organizations and citizen groups.

The requirements and stipulations inherent in the use of federal funds via Federal aid projects require that special attention be devoted to projects which utilize these funds. Current sources of federal funds for the Habitat Conservation Division are both Pittman-Robinson and Dingell-Johnson.

Anticipated Developments:

Consolidation and implementation of old and new subprograms into the new division.

Objectives:

To administer the Habitat Conservation Division in conformity with statutory law, administration policy and legislative intent. To work with other subprograms, programs, and organizations in meeting the goals of the Division and the Department.

Performance indicators:

1. Administration of Division subprograms
2. Supervision of employees
3. Fiscal responsibility.

**Subprogram 2. Environmental Investigations:**

Work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers on projects that entail flood control, drainage, navigation or other objectives which impact the fish and wildlife resources of Louisiana. Works with the United States Department of Agriculture programs which are likely to significantly affect Louisiana fish and wildlife resources. Provides technical assistance on various projects of such agencies as the Federal Highway Administration, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Land Management and many other Federal, state and local agencies and to reviewed and evaluated those projects with respect to their impact on fish and wildlife resources.

Notices of public hearings, environmental assessments, environmental impact statements and other reports are reviewed. Files and published records are reviewed as they relate to the area of the proposed project. Field investigations are made as appropriate and information is solicited from technical personnel. Informational meetings are attended and findings are published in a letter report prepared for the signature of the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries.

Anticipated Developments:

The activities conducted under this subprogram will continue to be vigorously pursued. No changes are anticipated in this subprogram.

Objectives:

To provide technical assistance on fish, wildlife and habitat matters to the various Federal, state and local permitting agencies.

Performance Indicators:

During the past fiscal year approximately 1000 Section 404/Section 10 permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were reviewed and commented upon. Additionally, approximately 800 Coastal Use Permits were acted upon. Four watershed (PL 566) projects, 21 Statewide Flood Control Projects, 60 bridge replacement projects, 20 highway projects, 2 hydroelectric dam projects, 15 FmHA projects, 40 Community Development Block Grant Programs, 6 major flood control and/or hurricane protection projects, 2 parish coastal zone management plans, and 3 major environmental impact statements were reviewed, investigated, and commented upon.

**Subprogram 3: Louisiana Natural & Scenic Rivers System Administration:**

Pertinent biological information concerning Louisiana's Natural and Scenic rivers System is developed. Appropriate biological surveys are made of streams or segments of streams in the Scenic Rivers System, and resulting information is presented in reports for agency or public use. Other streams are surveyed to assess their potential for inclusion in the system. Data are compiled and made available to responsible state agencies for their use in scenic stream permit application evaluation.



Data on environmental parameters of scenic streams are gathered and made available for use by permit applicants. Permits for various permissible uses of the System streams are issued. Management plans for the various streams and segments are developed and implemented. Riparian 'scenic easements' are negotiated with landowners when appropriate.

#### Anticipated Developments:

Due to recommendations of the legislatively mandated Scenic Rivers Task Force, several changes are anticipated in the administration of the Scenic Rivers Program over the next year. Expanded and enhanced enforcement activity on the several streams, negotiated scenic easements, instituting a permit fee schedule, and conducting both ecological and user surveys on the several streams are anticipated developments.

#### Objectives:

The objectives of this subprogram are to preserve, protect, and enhance streams or stream segments which have designated Scenic Rivers by the Legislature. A further objective is to provide evaluations of candidate streams to the Legislature for potential inclusion in the system.

#### Performance Indicators:

During the past fiscal year 12 permit applications were received, 2 permit applications were remanded for revision, 8 permits were issued, and 0 were denied. No stream surveys were conducted and no new streams were included in the system.

#### Subprogram 4: Natural Heritage and Non-Game:

##### Activity 1: Louisiana Natural Heritage Program

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program conducts efficient inventories of the state's significant natural areas. The program has broadened its review responsibilities; therefore, more emphasis is placed on data-user services. Data analysis will continue to identify significant natural areas.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program is involved in status surveys of candidate species for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program is also a joint cooperator in several challenge grants for endangered species and natural community inventories with the US Forest Service.

Information about the status and distribution of rare or endangered species, natural communities are indexed by name, location, status, watershed and landownership creating a flexible system that can respond to a wide variety of user needs.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program provides information to public and private policy-makers. Reviews in consultation with Environmental Investigations, community development projects, Corps of Engineers permit applications, Coastal Management Division coastal use permits, DOTD permit applications, seismic operations permits, as well as requests from universities, individual citizens, other state agencies, and private conservation organizations.

Of the more than 3,000 element occurrences now on file in the data base, over 1350 are locations of special plants, 1060 are special animals and 377 are natural communities. The data base also includes information on 250 managed areas within the state, as well as 1941 source abstracts. The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program developed the first statewide natural community classification system containing 75 distinct communities.

Anticipated developments:

Increase data collection efforts and conduct more and more extensive field investigations.

Objectives:

The primary objectives of the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program are (1) to gather information systematically and on a continuing basis on the occurrences of significant ecological features of the state including endangered/threatened/rare or otherwise sensitive species habitat, outstanding examples of native ecosystems, and critical areas benefiting the environment; (2) to assemble and store this information efficiently in our data management system; (3) to make data retrieval utilitarian and cost effective so that the potential impact of various activities on identified lands can be evaluated; and (4) to set rational conservation plans.

Performance Indicators:

Increasing the size of the data base.  
Number of data base searches and retrievals.  
Number of permit reviewed.  
Number of field surveys conducted.  
Number of conservation plans developed.

Activity 2: Non-Game program

The growing pressures placed upon Louisiana's wildlife and their habitats require intensive effort by the Department in order to insure an optimal level of wildlife-related recreation commensurate with maintaining viable wildlife populations. A large segment of the public derives recreation from nongame wildlife (those species not hunted, trapped, or otherwise taken for sport, commercial, or nuisance-control purposes); demands from this user-group require that state wildlife agencies expand their scope to include non-hunted wildlife as well as traditional game species. Nongame species have frequently benefitted from resource management programs designed specifically for game and commercial species. However, this benefit is not comprehensive nor always effective in providing for the nongame species in most need of attention.

In Louisiana, state authority and responsibility for management of wildlife resides with the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The passage of the Wildlife Protection Donation Act (Act 784) in 1981 issued a mandate to the Commission and the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by establishment of an income-tax refund donation fund, the proceeds of which were to be used by the Department for the "...preservation, protection, perpetuation, and enhancement of game or nongame wildlife and its habitat...." The Nongame Wildlife Program was created in the Game Division in 1987 to administer a program utilizing the funds collected through the Wildlife Protection Donation. Act 784 was repealed in 1988 by Act 5 of the first legislative special session. The subprogram was incorporated into the Habitat Conservation Division of the Office of Wildlife in 1988.

The Nongame Wildlife Program is involved in management and research activities which include habitat use and distribution, nesting studies, and habitat inspection; cooperative interagency field activities such as environmental contaminant investigations; consultation with other Departmental personnel on nongame matters; and representing the Department and subprogram at professional and scientific gatherings. Further the Nongame Wildlife Program is engaged in a variety of activities designed to enhance public knowledge of and concern for nongame wildlife. The subprogram works closely with the Department's Information and Education Division to develop booklets, posters, and articles for the Department's bimonthly magazine Louisiana Conservationist, dealing with aspects of nongame ecology, management, and recreation; and video shorts regarding nongame and subprogram activities. Subprogram personnel routinely respond to numerous public inquiries on a wide range of nongame topics, and make

on-site inspections to recover injured wildlife or consult with property owners regarding wildlife damage. Additional education activities include group presentations and attendance of special functions to represent the subprogram and the Department.

Anticipated Developments:

In FY89-90 the subprogram will undertake the following activities in order to further achieve subprogram goals:

1. Fund a survey of public attitudes and desires regarding nongame wildlife, analyze the results, and utilize the acquired knowledge to aid in subprogram planning and development; publish the results of the survey for public distribution.
2. Seek to broaden the funding base of the subprogram by researching alternative funding sources.
3. Develop a comprehensive strategic and operational plan for the subprogram.
4. Fund a study on the effects of silvicultural treatments on nongame wildlife of bottomland hardwood forests, particularly Neotropical migrant passerine birds and woodland raptors; develop management guidelines for public and private forestland owners based on the results of the study; publish the results of the study in a format readily available to landowners and the general public.
5. Fund ongoing research on the importance of coastal cheniere woodlots to Neotropical migrant birds; publish results in a format readily available to landowners and the general public.
6. Monitor use of experimental artificial nesting platforms for ospreys erected on Pearl River Wildlife Management Area and at other locations.
7. Formulate habitat management and easement-acquisition guidelines for farmland in southeastern Rapides Parish, habitat for the largest known regular concentration of wintering sandhill cranes (Grus canadensis) in Louisiana.
8. Establish a small grants program to increase research and management data gathering efforts. Proposals dealing with applied research on endangered, threatened, and Heritage-listed species will be given priority consideration.
9. Produce a wide array of printed materials to increase public awareness and concern for nongame wildlife. These materials will include a wildlife viewing guide for Louisiana, wildlife checklists for Wildlife Management Areas, and a poster/booklet combination dealing with conservation and management of birds of prey.
10. Initiate a statewide bluebird trail nest box program designed to a) benefit the resource, b) increase public awareness of the Eastern bluebird (Sialia sialia) in particular and nongame wildlife in general, and c) stimulate interest in the subprogram.

Objectives:

1. Conserve, enhance, maintain, and/or restore Louisiana's native nongame wildlife resources so that natural diversity is maintained.
2. Promote public appreciation, awareness, concern, and enjoyment of nongame wildlife.

Performance Indicators:

1. Response of wildlife populations to subprogram activities.
2. Public acceptance and approval of subprogram, measured at least in part by unsolicited requests for information on nongame-related topics.

Subprogram 5: Habitat Acquisition and Assessment

Coordinates land acquisition activities with outside agencies and individuals and other segments or Divisions of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to prevent duplication of effort within the department and to insure that the departmental mission in habitat acquisition is met. This subprogram is also responsible for conducting habitat evaluations (HEP) and assessing the habitat suitability for target organisms on departmental lands and/or to determine the amount of compensation or mitigation required to offset various types habitat destruction.

Anticipated Developments:

This is a new program. Implementation of this subprogram is anticipated during FY 89-90

Objectives:

To provide clear and uniform mechanism for Departmental habitat acquisition and evaluation.

Performance indicators:

The program has not yet been implemented, however we anticipate that the results will be a comprehensive habitat acquisition program which will result in the availability of more public lands with clearly defined management goals.

Subprogram 6: Marsh Management and Coastal Erosion Coordination.

To coordinate the wetland restoration/preservation efforts of the department and to interface with Federal and state agencies and landowners in wetland restoration/preservation, fresh water introduction, coastal erosion, and marsh management. Assures that the policies of the Department relative to marsh management and coastal preservation are communicated to responsible and interested agencies and individuals outside of the Department and are uniformly applied within the Department.

Anticipated developments:

This is a new program. Implementation of this subprogram is anticipated during FY 89-90.

Objectives:

To insure a comprehensive and uniform policy of wetland management and preservation/restoration efforts within the Department closely coordinated with other governmental bodies and individuals who have vested interest in coastal wetlands.

Performance indicators:

Since this program has not yet been established there are not now definitive indicators of its success. We anticipate that its performance will be measured in acres of restored coastal wetlands and acres of wetlands preserved.



VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
POST OFFICE BOX 98000  
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898  
PHONE (504) 765-2800

BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

*File for  
June 1 Comm.  
Meeting  
in Baton Rouge*

May 26, 1989

Dr. Don Hines, Chairman  
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission  
P.O. Box 130  
Bunkie, LA 71322

Dear Dr. Hines:

As per your March 3, 1989 resolution requesting formation of an Alligator Task Force representing various aspects of the industry and giving this group specific tasks for a reporting to the June 1989 regular La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting, please find the attached Executive Summary plus attachments. A complete report with supporting documents is being prepared but is not available for this meeting. A representative of the Alligator Task Force will present these findings to you and will be available for comments and/or questions.

The Alligator Task Force worked long and hard to arrive at these findings at their own expense. They are to be congratulated for working together and with the staff in their deliberations. Determination and sincere interest through three separate meetings with compromises liberally applied has resulted in a cohesive approach to the original charges listed in the resolution.

On behalf of the staff and myself, we wish to thank each one for their contribution and are hopeful for continued input from the Alligator Task Force in dealing with other issues.

If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,

  
Johnnie W. Tarter  
Administrator  
Fur & Refuge Division

JWT:dsg

cc: Virginia Van Sickle  
Bob Misso  
James Manning  
Ted Joanen  
Greg Linscombe  
Alligator Task Force Members

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**Alligator Task Force  
Executive Summary of Findings  
Report to the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission  
June 1, 1989**

1. Fur and Alligator Advisory Council - commended for an excellent job considering the money available; recommended to continue with increased income from undetermined source(s).
2. Recreational (sport) alligator hunting license issue addressed and recommend that LDWF and/or LWFC seek legislation to permit license fee increases from:
  - (a) Resident - \$25 - \$100
  - (b) Non-resident - \$150 - \$500
  - (c) All income thus derived directed to financing FAAC activities - deposited in the La. Fur and Alligator Public Education and Marketing Fund.
  - (d) Fiscal impacts see attachment "A"
3. Recommended that LDWF prepare a 5 year budget projection (FY 1989-90 through 1993-94) for the Alligator Program including:
  - (a) anticipated program costs
  - (b) projected revenues
  - (c) budget should represent realistic figures reflecting program expansion and/or phase-out elements
4. Present Alligator Program (and budget projection - see No. 3) Budget should be adjusted to:
  - (a) eliminate "opportunity costs" (hatchlings included in Alligator Assisted sub program assigned value and converted to an actual "cost" of the overall program) - see attachment "B"
  - (b) eliminate depreciation cost figures (levees, maintenance, equipment, etc.) from the overall program costs - see attachment "B"
  - (c) recommended budget for Alligator Program presented - see attachment "C"
5. Alligator Farmer Supplemental Sub Program examined and resulted in the following conclusions:
  - (a) noted that contribution of eggs and/or hatchlings to pioneer farmers was responsible for industry development
  - (b) the economic and technical assistance provided by LDWF, Fur and refuge Division subsidized early farming efforts
  - (c) providing eggs and/or hatchlings at no cost should be phased out-as contractual obligations expire, no new replacement farmers recommended
  - (d) see Attachment "D" for more details
6. Alligator Program Budget revenues should be enhanced to cover program costs by increasing (through LWFC Action) tag fee from \$2 each to \$4 each - see Attachment for fiscal impact.

- (a) new fee paid as live alligator eggs, hatchlings and/or other alligators of various sizes leave the state
  - (b) includes all alligators exported - farm raised/wild harvested
  - (c) suggested that mechanism sought to rebate or delay payment for those remaining in State jurisdiction or within state boundary
  - (d) LDWF should seek legal advise to accomplish this recommendation
- 7. Alligator Farm monitoring sub program established to increase enforcement and compliance by farmers to LWFC rules and regulations and statutes regarding all aspects of overall program.
  - (a) additional technical staff and clerical aid to accomplish goal of equitable enforcement and compliance
  - (b) line item budget presented - see Attachment "E"
  - (c) subprogram costs derived from funds generated by additional monies from increasing tag fees from \$2 to \$4 (Attachment "F")
- 8. Resolution presented to LWFC recommending that Fur and Refuge Division remain as a separate distinct entity within LDWF . See Attachment "H"
  - (a) unanimous recommendation
- 9. La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries encouraged to sponsor an Economic Impact of the alligator industry including primary and secondary monetary affects and employment, etc. Funds available from the revenues generated by increasing the tag fee from \$2 - \$4
- 10. Recommendation for La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to prepare Alligator Program Budget reports on a regular basis (Quarterly may be suggested) for consideration by the Alligator Task Force.
- 11. Recommendation for Alligator Task Force to continue meeting as needed and the Chairman of Alligator Task Force is authorized to call such meetings. The strategy and action plan to secure a Louisiana based tanning industry requires much more time than allowed in the original resolution establishing the Alligator Task Force in March, 1969 requiring a report at the June 1989 regular La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting. Therefore, the Alligator Task Force will explore this specific charge in the next few months and will prepare a report on its findings on this subject after complete information is gathered and presented.

ATTACHMENT "A"

Non Resident Sport - 53

Resident Sport - 15

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Resident Sport	15 X \$25 = \$ 375.00	15 x \$100 = \$ 1,500.00
Non Resident	53 X \$50 = <u>7,950.00</u>	53 X \$500 = <u>26,500.00</u>
	\$8,325.00	\$ 28,000.00



ATTACHMENT "B"

ALLIGATOR PROGRAM COST AND  
GENERATED REVENUE

1988/89

	PROGRAM COST -----	PROGRAM REVENUE -----
STATEWIDE ALLIGATOR MANAGEMENT	146,180	57,893
DEPARTMENT LANDS HARVEST	19,477	74,794
SUPPLEMENTAL ALLIGATOR FARMING	30,534	49,865
PRIVATE/ASSISTED FARMING	29,871	33,971
PRIVATE RANCHING	63,240	75,025
ALLIGATOR RESEARCH	126,522	*

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TOTAL	415,824	291,547
-------	---------	---------

\*The Research Program is responsible for  
generating all of the revenues listed.

ALLIGATOR PROGRAM COST AND  
GENERATED REVENUE

1989/90

	PROGRAM COST -----	PROGRAM REVENUE -----
STATEWIDE ALLIGATOR MANAGEMENT	146,180	109,281
DEPARTMENT LANDS HARVEST	29,477	78,188
SUPPLEMENTAL ALLIGATOR FARMING	30,534	49,865
PRIVATE/ASSISTED FARMING	29,871	33,971
PRIVATE RANCHING	63,240	75,025
ALLIGATOR RESEARCH	126,522	*

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TOTAL	415,824	442,885
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\*The Research Program is responsible for  
generating all of the revenues listed.

ATTACHMENT "B-1"

GENERATED REVENUE AVAILABLE TO  
THE ALLIGATOR PROGRAM

1988/89

STATEWIDE ALLIGATOR MANAGEMENT

1,535 Hunter License @ 25*	7,675
24,007 Tags Issued @2	44,620
Severance Taxes @.25	5,578
-----	
TOTAL	57,893

DEPARTMENT OWNED LANDS

65 Hunter License @ 25*	325
1,697 Tags Issued @2	3,394
540 Harvested Alligators	70,651
Severance Taxes @.25	424
-----	
TOTAL	74,794

FARMING/RANCHING

54 Breeders License @25	1,350
48,682 Tags @2	97,364
Severance Taxes @.25	12,170
Hatchlings Sold-Supplemental	4,550
5% Return Rate-Supplemental	28,490
50% Program Cost Return-Assisted	14,936
-----	
TOTAL	158,860

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TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUE	291,547
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\*\$20 per license is dedicated to the Fur and Alligator Council for expenses not covered in this report. The Department actually receives only \$5 per license to defray its program costs.

ATTACHMENT "B-2"

GENERATED REVENUE AVAILABLE TO  
THE ALLIGATOR PROGRAM

1989/90

STATEWIDE ALLIGATOR MANAGEMENT

1,535 Hunter License @ 25*	7,675
24,007 Tags Issued @\$4	96,028
Severance Taxes @.25	5,578
-----	
TOTAL	109,281

DEPARTMENT OWNED LANDS

65 Hunter License @ 25*	325
1,697 Tags Issued @2	6,788
540 Harvested Alligators	70,651
Severance Taxes @.25	424
-----	
TOTAL	78,188

FARMING/RANCHING

54 Breeders License @25	1,350
48,682 Tags @4	194,728
Severance Taxes @.25	12,322
Hatchlings Sold-Supplemental	4,550
5% Return Rate-Supplemental	28,490
50% Program Cost Return-Assisted	11,520
-----	
TOTAL	252,960

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TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUE	440,429
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\*\$20 per license is dedicated to the Fur and Alligator Council for expenses not covered in this report. The Department actually receives only \$5 per license to defray its program costs.

## ATTACHMENT "C"

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF

FACS AGY:513

BR-2

## ACTUAL, BUDGETED, ESTIMATED, BASE LEVEL AND TOTAL REQUESTED

Cost Center: 22912

LINE NO.	CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE	CURRENT YEAR 1988-1989			REQUESTS 1989-1990		
		PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL 1987-1988	BUDGETED 1988-1989	ESTIMATED 1988-1989	BASE LEVEL REQUEST 1989-1990	TOTAL REQUEST 1989-1990	OVER/UNDER BUDGETED 1988-1989
1	SALARIES	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
2	Regular	97,000	0	0	77,906	77,906	77,906
3	Other Compensation	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Related Benefits	17,254	0	0	13,373	13,373	13,373
5	TOTAL SALARIES	114,254	0	0	91,279	91,279	91,279
6	OPERATING EXPENSES	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
7	Travel	2,100	0	0	3,600	3,600	3,600
8	Operating Services	3,396	0	0	104,100	104,100	104,100
9	Supplies	30,488	0	0	45,416	45,416	45,416
10	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	35,984	0	0	153,116	153,116	153,116
11	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
12	Accounting & Auditing	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Management Consulting	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Engineering & Architectural	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Legal	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Medical	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Professional Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	OTHER CHARGES	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
21	Other Charges	700	0	0	30,000	30,000	30,000
22	Debt Service	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	700	0	0	30,000	30,000	30,000
25	SCHED. OF ACQUIS. & MAJOR REPAIRS	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
26	Acquisitions	22,706	0	0	18,500	18,500	18,500
27	Major Repairs	14,180	0	0	10,500	10,500	10,500
28	TOTAL SCHED. ACQUIS./MAJOR REPAIRS	36,886	0	0	29,000	29,000	29,000
29	UNALLOCATED	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	TOTAL EXPENDITURES & REQUESTS	187,824	0	0	303,395	303,395	303,395
31	POSITIONS (SALARIES CONTINUING)	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
32	Classified				2.80	2.80	
33	Unclassified				0	0	
34	TOTAL POSITIONS (SALARIED CONT.)				2.80	2.80	
35	POSITIONS (OTHER CHARGES)	0	0	0	0	0	0

SUPPLEMENTAL ALLIGATOR FARMING PROGRAM  
ATTACHMENT "D"

NO	NAME	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
01	Robert Kliebert	450	300	300	300	250	312	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02	Robert Perkins		450	500	905	1,050	1,000	1,050	1,054	900	1,000	1,055	1,050	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03	Whitaker-Keller			290	200	250	375	400	500	500	500	600	600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04	Steele McAndrews						772	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,300	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05	Travis Barron						150	150	250	250	300	350	350	150	150	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06	Leonard Coates							500	500	450	700	900	750	500	500	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0
07	George Bartmess							565	500	525	600	600	600	500	500	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0
08	Robert Ferrington							500	400	500	600	533	500	500	500	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0
09	L.L. & E.							500	500	500	500	500	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	John Stansbury								150	250	500	500	500	150	150	150	150	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Doug Smith								130	250	300	300	300	75	75	75	75	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Egon Kline								250	200	472	750	750	300	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Wayne Sagrera									255	644	500											
14	Gary Mayard																						
15	Wayne Magee																						
16	O.J. Harris																						
Total:		450	750	1,090	1,405	1,550	2,609	4,965	5,534	5,880	7,616	8,088	9,200	6,175	6,175	6,175	5,025	2,525	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	0

**ATTACHMENT "E"**

**ADDITIONAL STAFFING AND RESEARCH FUNDING REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL  
STAFF, ROCKEFELLER REFUGE, FUR AND REFUGE DIVISION**

1. Addition of one (1) biologist along with secretarial support: primary responsibilities focused on alligator farming and secondary emphasis on assistance with implementation of alligator season statewide and waterfowl research in southwest Louisiana.

1 Biologist -----	\$ 20,000
1 Secretary -----	\$ 15,000
<b>TOTAL -----</b>	<b>\$ 35,000</b>

2. Evaluation of alligator egg harvest strategies on selected study areas in southwest Louisiana.

Helicopter rental -----	\$ 6,000
16 Biologist days -----	\$ 2,000
Vehicles/boats -----	\$ 450
Supplies -----	\$ 500
Clerical (4 days) -----	\$ 300
<b>TOTAL -----</b>	<b>\$ 9,250</b>

3. An evaluation of alligator age in relation to sex and size class.

5 Biologist days -----	\$ 625
Supplies -----	\$ 200
Vehicles -----	\$ 200
Sectioning, Ageing (Contractor) -----	\$ 10,000
<b>TOTAL -----</b>	<b>\$ 11,025</b>

4. Electrophloroysis of a captive breeding herd of alligators.

10 Biologist days -----	\$ 1,250
Material and Supplies (Ration) -----	\$ 340
Maintenance (Salaries) -----	\$ 250
Contractor -----	\$ 10,000
<b>TOTAL -----</b>	<b>\$ 11,840</b>

5. A comparison of alligator nest clutch sizes, egg weights, and egg/hatchling measurements collected from selected coastal marsh areas.

Salaries -----	\$ 1,500
Vehicles/boats -----	\$ 500
Supplies -----	\$ 500
<b>TOTAL -----</b>	<b>\$ 2,500</b>

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PERSONNEL REQUEST -----	\$ 35,000
RESEARCH FUNDING -----	\$ 34,615
GRAND TOTAL -----	\$ 69,615

ATTACHMENT "F"

Supplemental Alligator Farming Program

	1988	1989	1990
Wild Tags	25,000	25,000	25,000
Farm Tags	<u>25,000+</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>
Total	50,000	75,000	100,000

1988 - 50,000 tags @ \$2.00 - \$100,000

1989 - 75,000 tags @ \$3.00 - \$225,000

1990 - 100,000 tags @ \$3.00 - \$300,000

1988 - 50,000 tags @ \$2.00 - \$100,000

1989 - 75,000 tags @ \$4.00 - \$300,000

1990 - 100,000 tags @ \$4.00 - \$400,000



**ATTACHMENT "H"**

**Louisiana Alligator Task Force  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898**

**May 3, 1989**

**Dear Governor Roemer:**

**On May 3, 1989 the Louisiana Alligator Task Force approved the attached resolution relative to the proposed merger of the Fur and Refuge Division and the Game Division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The Task Force feels very strongly about this matter and respectfully requests your attention and assistance in dealing with this matter.**

**Sincerely,**

*Jerry Jones /*  
**Jerry Jones**  
**Chairman** *dsg*

**cc: Mr. Dennis Stine  
Mr. Manny Fernandez  
Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary - LDWF  
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission**

**A Resolution Adopted by the Alligator Task Force on  
May 3, 1989**

**A RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS, the Fur and Refuge Division has been a distinct entity within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for over 45 years; and**

**WHEREAS, the Fur and Refuge Division's goals and achievements concerning coastal wildlife species and coastal wetlands conservation are unique on the North American Continent; and**

**WHEREAS, the coastal refuge and wildlife management area system created and managed by the Fur and Refuge Division encompass 500,000 acres of coastal marshes and is recognized nationally and internationally as progressive, innovative and of continental significance; and**

**WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in their 1988 review of Rockefeller Refuge has recognized the innovative management and research programs and activities developed in the Fur and Refuge Division as good and worthwhile programs; and**

**WHEREAS, the marsh management techniques pioneered on these coastal refuge and wildlife management lands are now used coastwide to sustain and where possible enhance marsh productivity; and**

**WHEREAS, the expertise and experience of Fur and Refuge Division staff has been and continues to be of extreme importance to both large and small coastal landowners and land managers; and**

**WHEREAS, the research and management priorities of the Fur and Refuge Division have been directed to the long term future of coastal wetlands and maximizing the value of all renewable resources within coastal marshes that provide an economic incentive to commercial users and landowners to protect these coastal marshes through active management; and**

**WHEREAS, the Fur and Refuge Division staff has been responsible for all three marsh vegetative type maps (1942, 1968, 1978) currently used by all state and federal agencies involved in evaluating and addressing Louisiana's coastal erosion problem; and**

**WHEREAS, the Fur and Refuge Division through research and applied management is responsible for the recovery of the State Bird, the Brown Pelican from endangered status to three viable breeding colonies numbering over 8,000 birds; and**

**WHEREAS, the Fur and Refuge Division through long term research and innovative management is responsible for the recovery of the alligator from endangered status to a rapidly growing industry worth over \$14 million annually and leading the U.S. in wild and farm alligator populations; and**

**WHEREAS, the Fur and Refuge Division through research and management has maintained Louisiana as the number one state in wild fur production with an average value of \$10 million annually; and**

**WHEREAS, the Fur and Refuge Division has provided coordination, leadership and a sincere commitment to opposing animal rights activist (anti-trapping, anti-hunting, anti-fishing) nationally and internationally for over 17 years; and**

**WHEREAS, some employees of the Fur and Refuge Division are national and internationally recognized authorities on alligator, furbearers, marsh management and aquaculture; and**

**WHEREAS, the staff of the Fur and Refuge Division has demonstrated a commitment to research by producing over 325 scientific publications during the past 25 years; and**

**WHEREAS, based on the budget submitted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to the 1989 legislature the Fur and Refuge Division will be merged with the Game Division; and**

**WHEREAS, this proposed merger will undoubtedly result in a major reduction in research and management effort and efficiency and a shift in priorities and funding away from coastal resources; and**

**WHEREAS, no justification has been given to support the necessity of this merger nor any mention of the numerous and very significant negative impacts on coastal resources that will result; and**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House and Senate of the State of Louisiana hereby convened in the 1989 regular session direct the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take all action necessary including amendments to the budget to insure the continued efficient functioning of the Fur and Refuge Division as a distinct entity of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is forwarded to Governor Roemer, Commissioner of Administration, and Secretary Van Sickle for compliance during the 1989 Regular Legislative Session with copies forwarded to members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.**

RULE

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Title 56

Wildlife and Fisheries

Part VI. Fishing and Fish Industry Licensing

Subpart B. Recreational Fishermen

56:302.7 Free Fishing Days

In accordance with Act 301 of the 1987 Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has declared June 10 and 11, 1989 as Free Recreational Fishing Days in Louisiana to coincide with National Fishing Week June 5-11. On the two above mentioned free fishing days, residents and non-residents may exercise the privilege of a licensed recreational fisherman without purchase of any otherwise necessary recreational fishing license.

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS: Sportfishing provides recreation for more than sixty million Americans of all ages, giving families a healthy, shared outdoor activity, and
- WHEREAS: Sportfishing, through the payment of millions of dollars annually for licenses, taxes and fees, has provided the funding for federal and state programs that contribute significantly to the preservation and protection of our natural environment, and
- WHEREAS: The estimated 800,000 plus sportfishermen in Louisiana contribute in excess of one billion dollars annually to our economy, and
- WHEREAS: Act 301 of the 1987 Louisiana Legislature authorizes the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to declare no more than two free recreational fishing days each year, and
- WHEREAS: Free Fishing Days during National Fishing Week would provide an excellent opportunity to introduce additional individuals to the wholesome outdoor activity of fishing.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That we the undersigned members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to hereby officially declare the week of June 5-11, 1989 as

FISHING WEEK

in the State of Louisiana, and

- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That June 10 and 11, 1989 are hereby declared free recreational fishing days, during which residents and non-residents may exercise the privileges of a licensed recreational fisherman without purchase of any otherwise necessary recreational fishing license.

April 6, 1989

Don Hines, Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr.

Warren I. Pol, Vice Chairman

Joe Palmisano, Jr.

Dale J. Vinet

Bert Jones

Norman F. McCall

Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary

RULE

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with Act 301 of the 1987 Louisiana Legislature, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, at its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on June 3, 1988, declared June 11 and 12, 1988 as Free Recreational Fishing Days in Louisiana to coincide with National Fishing Week June 6-12. On the two above mentioned free fishing days, residents and nonresidents may engage in hook and line fishing without purchase of a recreational fishing license.

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Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
La. Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

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Joe Palmisano, Chairman  
La. Wildlife & Fisheries Commission